

2011

Annual Report



THE VANIER INSTITUTE OF THE FAMILY

The Vanier Institute of the Family is an independent, national, bilingual, non-profit organization committed to promoting the well-being of Canadian families. The Institute was established in 1965 under the patronage of Their Excellencies Governor General Georges P. Vanier and Madame Pauline Vanier.

As Canadian leaders, the Vaniers envisioned an independent institute to:

- Build public understanding of important issues and trends affecting the healthy functioning of Canadian families
- Foster a society that identifies and provides for the needs and aspirations of families
- Encourage a family perspective among policy-makers, service providers, employers, educators and others whose work affects the lives of families
- Promote the inherent capacity of families to help themselves

The Vanier Institute of the Family fulfills its mandate through many activities, especially:

Research and Analysis: The Vanier Institute undertakes and commissions research on Canadian families and the context in which families nurture their members and contribute to their communities. Using data distilled from many sources, the Institute moulds complex facts and figures into authoritative information, making it accessible and available to all Canadians.

Public Education: Through publications, media, presentations, consultations, social media and the Web, the Vanier Institute keeps Canadians up-to-date on families, in all of their diversity, from coast to coast. As a public resource, the Institute provides information, inspiration and innovation. The Institute analyzes, synthesizes and organizes data; facilitates knowledge transfer and knowledge mobilization; and provides evidence-based and experience-based insights to support researchers and academics, teachers and students, service providers, policy-makers, program developers, and community, business, labour and government leaders.

Partnerships: The Vanier Institute enhances its capacity to contribute to Canadian society by developing strategic partnerships with public and private institutions, corporations, the media and the non-profit sector.

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Message from the President

VERNA BRUCE

BUILDING ON THE PAST... MOVING TOWARD THE FUTURE

As usual, it has been a busy year for the Vanier Institute. Among our many accomplishments, the Board of Directors was successful in hiring a new CEO, Nora Spinks, to lead the organization forward.

Nora has a long history of partnership with the Institute and brings her many talents and expertise in organizational development, work-life quality and family research to the organization. A special thanks to Al MacKay for stepping in as Interim Executive Director during the search process: his contribution to the organization continues to be exceptional.

The Institute has been equally busy adapting to the new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act. In October, the Institute's membership approved changes to the bylaws in compliance with the new legislation. Governance practices, administrative procedures and management strategies have been modified and modernized to align more directly with the changes as well.

In 2011, the Board turned its attention to the upcoming 20th anniversary of the UN's International Year of the Family in 2014, Vanier Institute's own 50th anniversary in 2015 and Canada's sesquicentennial in 2017. In preparation for these events, the Vanier Alumni Network was formed to leverage the talents of past board members and executives.

Financially, the Institute is in good shape. We have come out of the recent recession with strength and confidence. This year, we have focused our attention on successfully reducing costs and increasing revenue through alternative sources while maintaining the integrity of our program and our publication schedule.

As my term of office comes to an end, and as I retire from the Board and join the Alumni Network, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers, contributors and donors and to the Vanier team for making my time with the Institute memorable. It has been an extraordinary opportunity to make a difference in the lives of Canadian families.



Message from the CEO

NORA SPINKS

NEW BEGINNINGS, NEW POSSIBILITIES...

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to write articles, participate in events and share ideas with Vanier Institute staff and board members. In June 2011, I assumed the role of CEO for the Institute - it feels like yesterday and, at the same time, it feels like I have always been here. The Vanier team is a group of talented, dedicated and hard-working individuals with a deep commitment to the Institute and to families in Canada.

This past year has been one of excitement and renewal. The Institute's established commitment to excellence is as strong as ever. Existing publications remain relevant, vibrant and accessible. New projects have been started, networks launched and round tables hosted. Our capacity continues to expand with the welcome addition of college and university placement and co-op students, interns and researchers to the team.

In 2011, the Institute expanded its reach, enhanced its relevance and increased its rigour. In so doing, we embraced social media and expanded our website. We engaged individuals and groups in meaningful conversations and continued to make presentations across the country on a broad array of subjects of importance to Canadian families.

With the enthusiasm and commitment of so many wonderful people and in partnership with other organizations, we will continue our journey, seizing opportunities and creating possibilities while striving to reach our potential in the years to come.



Publications

CONTEMPORARY FAMILY TRENDS PAPERS 2011

The Vanier Institute commissions and publishes in-depth papers written by Canadian experts on a wide range of topics of relevance to families in Canada. Our Contemporary Family Trends papers contribute to the discussion of important family issues by making current knowledge on families available to researchers and policy-makers, educators and students, businesses and social service agencies, media and other interested parties. The papers are published both in print and on our website.



Changing Families, New Understandings explores key debates about the roles and responsibilities in Canadian families. The paper makes the case that we unpack our understanding of family to craft policies and programs that support families, in all of their diversity.

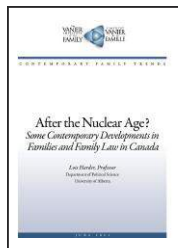
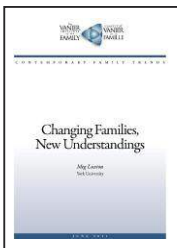
Publication Date: June 29, 2011

Author: Dr. Meg Luxton, Professor, School of Women's Studies, York University

After the Nuclear Age? Some Contemporary Developments in Families and Family Law in Canada surveys some of the recent developments concerning the meaning of family in Canadian law and policy. The paper invites readers to reflect on the rationales that support the recognition of diverse family structures and functions.

Publication Date: June 12, 2011

Author: Dr. Lois Harder, Professor of Political Science, University of Alberta



TRANSITION 2011

Transition, a quarterly, bilingual magazine, is the Vanier Institute's foundational publication on Canada's families. Each issue of the magazine features several engaging articles on a particular theme of relevance to families.

Published since 1970 by the Vanier Institute of the Family, *Transition* is widely read and well-respected by policy-makers, researchers, educators, students, journalists, family-service workers, doctors, lawyers, parents and many others interested in family issues.

Families Caring (Spring, Vol. 41-1)

Focuses on aspects of family care work as it relates, in particular, to seniors and those approaching end of life.

Families and Incarceration (Summer, Vol. 41-2)

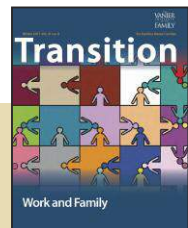
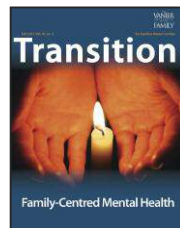
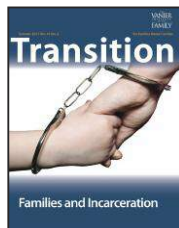
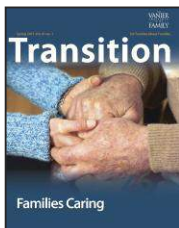
Focuses on the needs of families facing, dealing and coping with incarceration.

Family-Centred Mental Health (Autumn, Vol. 41-3)

Focuses on how the emergence of family-centred mental health care is helping families mitigate risks.

Work and Family (Winter, Vol. 41-4)

Focuses on how families manage multiple responsibilities at home, work and in the community.



FASCINATING FAMILIES

Fascinating Families builds on the Vanier Institute's expertise in monitoring family trends. This popular digital publication web feature highlights timely, family-related facts and uses a "family lens" to frame a brief discussion of the implications for families in Canada.



Young People Are Still Waiting for Recession to End, January 17, 2011

Planning for Retirement, February 15, 2011

Families, Work and Time: Running Hard to Stand Still, March 15, 2011

Maternity and Parental Leave, April 15, 2011

Child Abuse and Neglect, May 16, 2011

Summer Months, Active Families, June 15, 2011

Marriage Rate Continues to Drop, September 28, 2011

4 in 10 Marriages End in Divorce, October 26, 2011

All in a Day's Work, November 23, 2011



JUST THE FACTS

Just the Facts was introduced in late 2011 as a digital publication that offers readers up-to-date information and data on various subjects and special occasions in an “at-a-glance” format designed for journalists, policy-makers, educators, students and everyone interested in Canadian families.

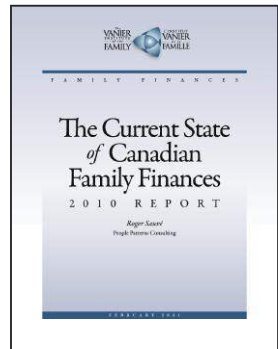
Seniors, October 1, 2011

Mental Health, November 16, 2011



THE CURRENT STATE OF CANADIAN FAMILY FINANCES – 2010 REPORT

The Vanier Institute produces an annual report on family finances, authored by Roger Sauvé, President of People Patterns Consulting. By monitoring family finances every year, we keep Canadians informed of the latest patterns and trends in family incomes, expenditures, savings and debt.



Networks, Projects and Special Events

ALUMNI NETWORK

Co-Chairs, Al MacKay and Carol Matusicky

Established in 2011, the Alumni Network provides a formal platform for former Vanier Institute board members and Executive Emeritus to remain engaged in the work of the Institute. This network currently has 25 members and connects through an alumni web portal on the Institute's website and through regular teleconference calls.

CANADIAN WORK-LIFE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Chair, Norma Tombari, RBC Financial Group

Currently under development, the Canadian Work-Life Leadership Circle engages human resource professionals and practitioners, across all sectors and a wide variety of industries, to promote and support family-friendly workplaces in Canada. A web portal is being created to facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building.

FAMILY RESEARCHERS NETWORK

Chair, Judith Maxwell

Currently under development, the Family Researchers Network brings together academics and researchers involved or interested in families in Canada, family life and family policy. A web portal is being created to facilitate knowledge sharing, knowledge mobilization and community building among members.

VANIER YOUTH VOICE NETWORK

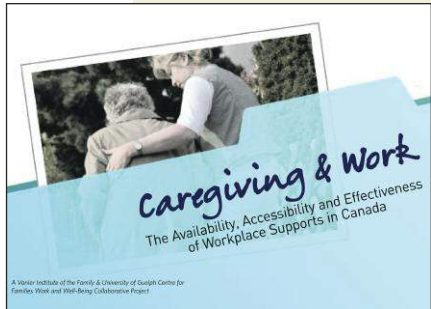
Co-Chairs to be determined

Currently in the early stages of development, the Vanier Youth Voice Network engages youth in conversations about families in Canada, contributes to *Transition*, and participates in round tables and web chats to ensure the Institute expands its reach and relevance to young Canadians.



CAREGIVING & WORK PROJECT

Caregiving & Work explores Canada's aging population, shrinking labour force and the limited resources and supports for family caregivers. *Caregiving & Work* is a collaborative partnership between the Vanier Institute, the University of Alberta, the University of Guelph and the Université du Québec à Montréal. An employer survey, manager interviews and community round tables form the basis of the data gathering and knowledge sharing.



SPECIAL EVENTS

The Institute has begun its preparations to celebrate the upcoming 20th anniversary of the United Nations' International Year of the Family in 2014, the 50th Anniversary of the Vanier Institute in 2015 and Canada's sesquicentennial in 2017. A Special Events Committee is planning ways to commemorate these important historic milestones.



Financial Statements

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2011

ASSETS	2011	2010
Cash	192,933	3,511
Short-term investments	335,435	645,819
Accounts receivable	28,670	29,827
Prepaid expenses	11,586	2,105
Marketable investments	13,500,752	13,929,890
Capital assets	45,295	35,441
Investment - Headquarters property	299,680	307,920
TOTAL ASSETS	14,414,351	14,954,513
LIABILITIES		
Bank overdraft		9,743
Line of credit		7,500
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	68,810	53,824
Accrued benefit liability	23,714	21,366
	92,524	92,433
FUND BALANCES		
Basic support	13,559,903	14,061,979
Invested in capital assets	45,295	35,441
Endowment fund projects	196,325	196,325
Headquarters Property Improvement Fund	101,325	101,325
	13,902,848	14,395,070
Special projects	418,979	467,010
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	14,414,351	14,954,513

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Year ended December 31, 2011

REVENUES	2011	2010
Income from sales, speeches, fees	73,539	36,629
Donations	13,671	16,283
Investment income	503,253	480,565
Grants		5,000
TOTAL REVENUES	590,463	538,477
EXPENSES		
Program	313,935	441,214
Administration	606,358	475,794
TOTAL EXPENSES	920,293	917,008
Net revenue (expense) for the year	(329,830)	(378,531)
Balance - beginning of year	14,862,080	14,533,027
Realized/unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(210,423)	707,584
BALANCE - END OF YEAR	14,321,827	14,862,080

Community Connections

PRESENTATIONS

Vanier Institute team members made presentations and keynote addresses, and participated in several consultations and special meetings, including:

- AstraZeneca Global
- BMO Financial Group
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Canadian Association of Prior Learning Assessment
- Canadian Association on Gerontology
- Deloitte
- Home Child Care Association of Ontario
- Independent Financial Brokers of Canada
- Janssen-Ortho Inc.
- Lambton College
- Ministry of Children and Family Development of British Columbia
- Ontario Construction Secretariat
- Philanthropic Foundations Canada
- Polycultural Immigration and Community Services

MEDIA RELATIONS

Vanier Institute team members gave interviews, commentary and background information to the media, including:

- 98.5 FM
- *Calgary Herald*
- *Canadian Business*
- *Catholic Register*
- CBC, CBC News and CBC.ca
- *Centretown News*
- CTV News
- *Edmonton Journal*
- *Financial Post*
- Global News
- *Globe and Mail*
- *Huron Expositor*
- *La Presse*
- *Maclean's*
- *Ottawa Citizen*
- Postmedia News
- *Telegraph Journal*
- *The Province*
- *Toronto Star*
- *Vancouver Sun*
- *Windsor Star*
- *Winnipeg Free Press*

Special Thanks

...to all Vanier Institute donors, contributors, volunteers, partners and sponsors. We couldn't do all we do without your generosity, support and guidance.

DONORS

Special thanks to all of those who contributed to the financial well-being of the Vanier Institute.

Private Donors

Donations in memory of Dr. Fred Elkin
Donations through Canada Helps
Donations through the United Way
Donations through the Vanier Institute website

Corporate Donors

Beutel Goodman
Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay
The Lawson Foundation
TELUS

Family Legacy Fund

Jean and May Fournier Family Fund



Special Thanks

VANIER COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

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Rajesh Uttamchandani, *Human Resource Committee*

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Jenni Tipper

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Organizational Development and Learning Centre, University of Toronto

PPC Canada

Research on Aging, Policies, and Practice, Department of Human Ecology,
University of Alberta

Winnipeg Harvest

VANIER BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

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The Honourable Marilyn Trenholme
Counsell, M.D.

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Vanier Institute Team

VANIER INSTITUTE TEAM

Jennifer Brownrigg, *IT and Operations*

Josée Damboise, *Executive Assistant*

Lucie Legault, *Administration*

Sara MacNaull, *Networks, Projects and Special Events*

Nora Spinks, *CEO*

Paula Theetge, *Bookkeeping*

Jenni Tipper, *Publications*

Al MacKay, *Interim Executive Director, January 2011 to June 2011*

Katherine Scott, *Director of Programs until Fall 2011*



Get Informed, Inspired and Involved

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Establish your own Family Legacy Fund: [ceo@vanierinstitute.ca](#)

Submit an article for consideration: [editor@vanierinstitute.ca](#)

Attend a round table: [projects-events@vanierinstitute.ca](#)

Download reports/research: [www.vanierinstitute.ca](#)

Subscribe to *Transition* magazine: [www.vanierinstitute.ca](#)

Sign-up for our newsletter: [www.vanierinstitute.ca](#)

Make a donation: [www.vanierinstitute.ca](#)

Share ideas/thoughts/suggestions: [ceo@vanierinstitute.ca](#)



VANIER VISION

The vision of the Vanier Institute of the Family is to make families as important to the life of Canadian society as they are to the lives of individual Canadians.

VANIER MISSION

To create awareness of, and to provide leadership on, the importance and strengths of families in Canada and the challenges they face in their structural, demographic, economic, cultural and social diversity. Information from the Institute's research, consultation and policy development is conveyed through advocacy, education and communications vehicles to elected officials, policy-makers, educators and researchers, the business community, the media, social service professionals, the public and Canadian families themselves.



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