

## Canada will host the world in 2017

International Play Association (IPA) Canada is proud to announce that Canada will be the host country for the IPA 2017 Triennial World Conference. This will be the 20<sup>th</sup> triennial conference since IPA's inception and will coincide with Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Calgary has been chosen to be the host city. "IPA Canada received excellent bids from different Canadian cities in response to its request for bids to host the 2017 conference," explains Pierre Harrison, chair of IPA Canada. "IPA Canada is excited to partner with the city of Calgary and we look forward to welcoming academics and practitioners from Canada and around the world to share expertise and advance our understanding of the importance of play in the healthy development of children."

IPA is an interdisciplinary organization, bringing together people from all professions working for and with children, including playworkers, planners, psychologists, educators, academics, architects, artists, researchers, childcare workers, trainers, health workers, and landscape designers. With members in over 50 countries, the organization provides a vehicle for multi-disciplinary exchange and action towards preserving the child's right to play. IPA has been at the forefront of the recent adoption by the United Nations of the new General Comment on Play (General Comment number 17 on Article 31 of the UNCRC). This general comment provides guidance on the actions required by governments to ensure the implementation of article 31.

"I know I am speaking on behalf of the IPA members worldwide when I say that we are delighted to be coming to Calgary in 2017 to celebrate the IPA 20th World conference," said Theresa Casey, President IPA world. "We were incredibly impressed by the quality of the bid and the exciting prospect it holds for play and the world wide momentum for article 31 of the UN convention on the rights of the child."

The 2017 Triennial World Conference will galvanize the burgeoning play movement in Canada. It provides our nation with an opportunity to shine on the international scene as it clearly states: we support our children in their development and we understand that protecting and promoting the child's right to play is the best way to do so.

For more information please visit the IPA World or IPA Canada websites ([www.ipaworld.org](http://www.ipaworld.org), [www.ipacanada.org](http://www.ipacanada.org)).