



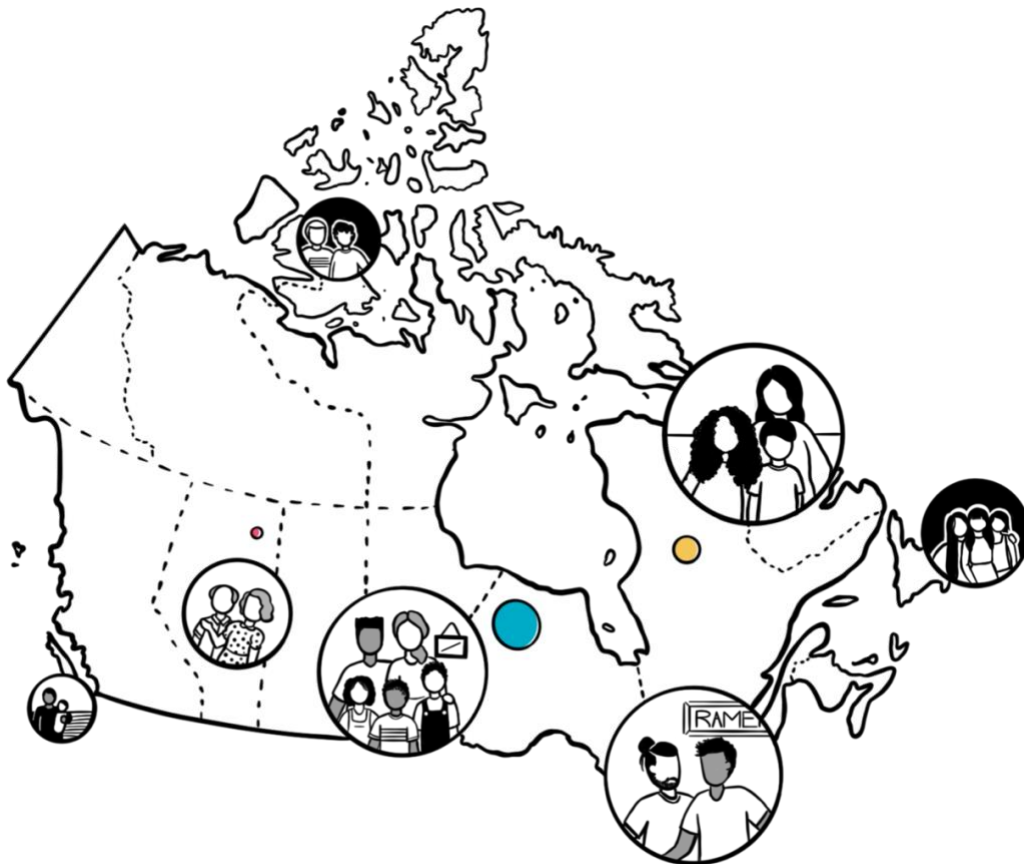
Reimagining
care/work
Policies

Réinventer
les politiques
soins/travail

RC/W Newsletter 1 (December 2021)

We are excited to announce that the Reimagining Care/Work Policies website has officially launched! Please head over to our website to find out more about our team, our project work, and our research outputs.

[Check out the RC/W Website](#)





A note from our Project Director, Andrea Doucet:

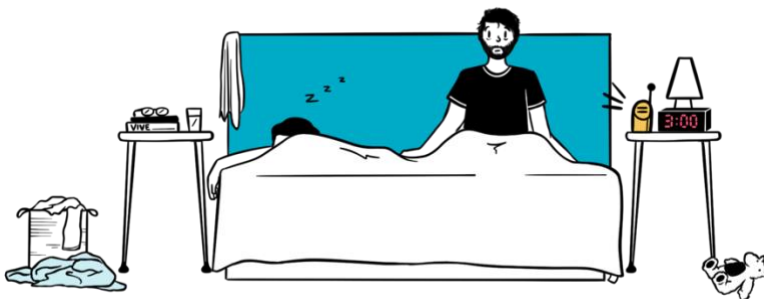
We found out that our SSHRC Partnership Grant was successful shortly after the first COVID-19 lockdowns across Canada in the spring of 2020. Our research program on care/work policies for families with young children suddenly became timelier than ever.

For years, our research team has identified the inadequacies of early learning and childcare services, parental leave policies, and employment policies in Canada and in other countries. The ongoing pandemic has highlighted the many deep cracks in Canada's social policies for families and that care/work policies need to be reimagined for more just and equitable family lives and futures. The researchers working in our three research Clusters—Childcare, Parental Leave, and Employment Policies—have been on the front lines of these issues.

Our Project Work



Childcare quickly emerged as a central issue in Canada's recovery from the pandemic. Canada's leading childcare researchers and community partners, many of whom are part of our team, have been tirelessly engaged in how to build an early learning and childcare system in Canada. I want to give a special shout out to our team's Co-Investigators, Collaborators, and partner organizations, including our Childcare Cluster leaders Martha Friendly and Susan Prentice as well as postdoctoral fellow Sophie Mathieu who published several Op Eds and articles about early learning and childcare in Québec over the past year. You can read more about our Childcare Cluster team [here](#), and some of their many Op Eds and research articles [here](#). Check out the [Journal of Childhood Studies Special Issue](#) co-edited by Susan Prentice and her colleague Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw, with articles by several of our Co-Investigators.



Our [Parental Leave](#) cluster has delved into the issue of what parental leave benefits could and should look like in [post-pandemic](#) Canada and have consulted on this issue with the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion and our government partner, Employment and Social Development Canada. This year, Kim de Laat joined us as our first MITACS-funded postdoctoral fellow, working in collaboration with our research partner, the Vanier Institute of the Family. I recently took on the role of Co-Coordinator (2021–2026) of [the International Network of Leave Policies and Research](#) (LP&R) with project Collaborator Marian Baird (as well as colleagues Johanna Lammi-Taskula and Gerardo Meil). We look forward to more cross-

fertilization between our research program and this international network of leading social policy from nearly 50 countries, including several members of our team.



In the [Employment](#) Cluster, Sylvia Fuller and Yue Qian have been actively following, writing, and speaking about how the pandemic has affected mothers' and fathers' employment. They have published several [articles](#), have been featured many times in the news, and have written an Op Ed about this issue, highlighting the central role of accessible and affordable childcare in post pandemic recovery. Their research highlights how throughout the pandemic, mothers, especially mothers with lower education levels, have been more likely than fathers to lose their jobs and how these women also face longer periods of economic insecurity.

In other Project news, in late August we launched a national and international [survey](#) exploring parents' work and family lives with a team from six countries (Canada, Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden, and the United States). We are working on several outputs from this survey, including a report and national and international papers.

A final point about our project work relates to the methodological innovation that is part of our research program. We are not only doing research, but also thinking about how to do research that combines strong evidence-based approaches with attention to diversity, context, and situatedness. You can see some of these papers and projects (in progress) [here](#). I want to mention, in particular, Sadie Goddard-Durant's leadership on project work with our partner, TAIBU Community Center; Eva Jewell and Vanessa Watts for joining me to think through and write about the possibilities and tensions of working between Indigenous Anishinaabe and feminist ecological knowledge making practices; and Janna Klostermann for collaborating with me on developing a digital and visual method for assessing gendered household and care work and connections between paid work, unpaid work, and paid care work.

As we ramp up with more research in 2022, we look forward to sharing more news on our current and incubating projects in our Spring 2022 newsletter! For more information on our Team and Partners, please visit the [website](#).

The challenges of launching a research program during a pandemic – and some notes of gratitude

As we began this research program, I had the opportunity to speak to Pat Armstrong, a leader on care work and the care economy and, for many of us, a shining example of what it means to be a generous public intellectual. We talked about her experiences [managing a large research project and team](#) and I asked her, “What would you do differently if you were starting again? What advice would you give to new team-based projects?” Without hesitation, she answered: “*Don't try and do it during a pandemic!*”

Pat was referring partly to the difficulties of running a research program without any of the customary in-person meetings, social events, and socializing. As a project that centers care and is being accomplished, overwhelmingly, by women who have caregiving responsibilities, we have been aware of how people are stretched more than ever. Many of our researchers have young children. Some have immunocompromised family members or elderly parents. Seeing first-hand the demands and toll of caring for others directly or from afar while also trying to ensure one's own well-being, we adopted a slower work pace to support and respect the needs of our team. As we move out of the pandemic or into a new endemic phase, we hope that there will be more space for conversations about how to center care within research life.

I want to end on a bright note and with some gratitude.

- A huge thank you to: Ashley Do Nascimento, who has done an excellent job of filling Jenn Turner's big Project Manager shoes while Jenn is on maternity and parental leave; to Janna Klostermann for all her creative and valuable inputs to our website; and to our Steering Committee who brought vision and great ideas to keep us moving forward in the past year (Martha Friendly, Sylvia Fuller, Donna Lero, Lindsey McKay, Sophie Mathieu, Susan Prentice, Vanessa Watts, Jennifer Turner, and Ashley Do Nascimento); to Diana Tzinis for the beautiful illustrations on our website; and to Jocelyn Tougas for the French translation.
- We also want to recognize the stellar contributions of our outstanding new and next generation scholars, beginning with our first group of [postdoctoral](#) fellows: Kim de Laat, Sadie-Goddard-Durant, Janna Klostermann, and Sophie Mathieu; and our team of [student](#) researchers: Manlin (Monica) Cai, Mireille Chaumont-Goneau, Megan Coghill, Jessica Falk, Alyssa Gerhardt, Trina McKellep, Rachel McLay, Kailin Rourke, Rebecca Siqi Qin, Kenya Thompson, and Helena Tizaa.
- Congratulations to our Project Manager, Jennifer Turner, on the birth of Nash in March 2021 and to Lisa Pasolli, on the birth of Everett, born in February, 2021.

- Congratulations to [Martha Friendly](#) who was awarded the prestigious Charles Taylor Prize for Excellence in Research Policy for her childcare research and policy contributions.



We wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, and restorative holiday season. Please share our web site with others and we look forward to connecting again in the New Year.

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