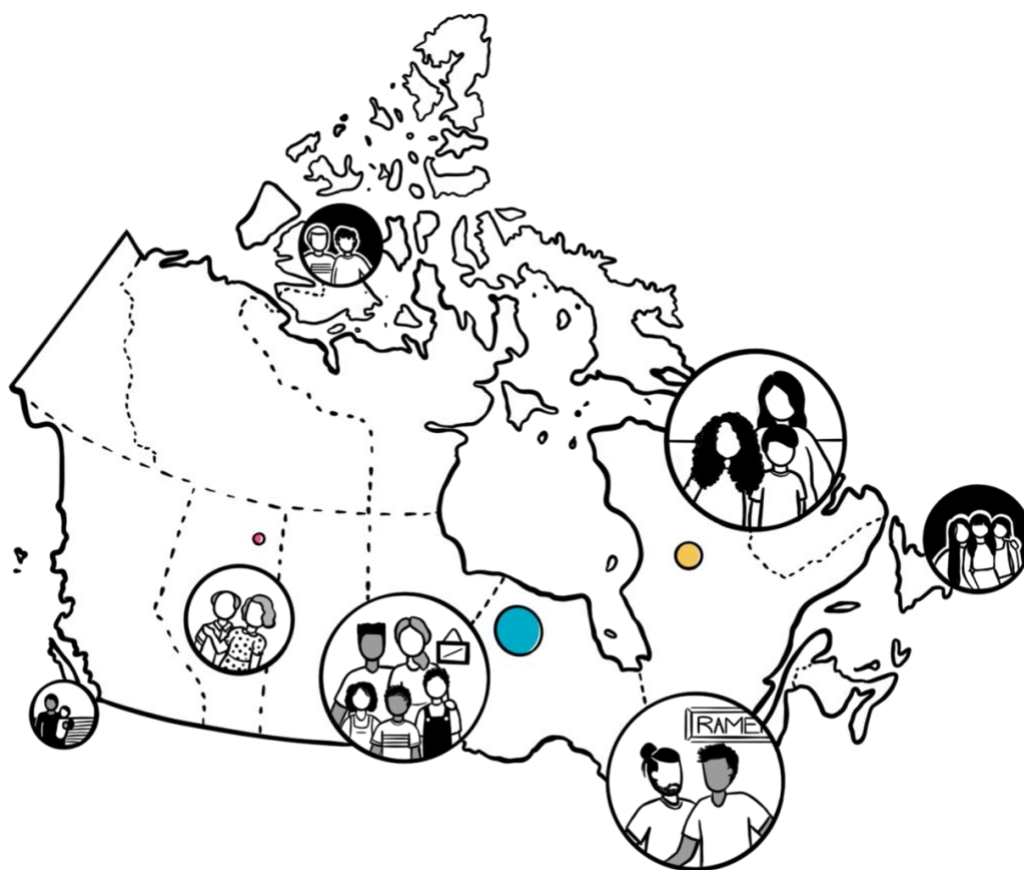




Reimagining
care/work
Policies

Réinventer
les politiques
soins/travail

Reimagining Care/Work Policies (RC/W) Newsletter 9 (October 2026)



Hello colleagues and friends,

As we begin our fall season, we wanted to share with you what has been happening with the RC/W Partnership Project so far this year, mainly the events we've organized or attended, some of our research outputs, and team news.

We also wanted to note that we have just over two years remaining in this project. We are working on consolidating what we've done so far and setting ourselves up for a second phase of this work. Our team keeps growing, care/work issues remain more urgent than ever, and we know there is lots more to do together.

We hope you enjoy reading about some of our team news from the past few months!

Andrea Doucet, Project Director

Jennifer Turner, Project Manager



1. Substack

We are excited to share that the RC/W now has a Substack newsletter!

You can check us out [here](#).

Please subscribe [here](#).

This is a team Substack, curated by **Andrea** and managed by **Jennifer Turner** and two of our research associates/students, **Nicholas Erwin-Longstaff** and **Olivia Schmidt**.

We will be seeking posts from team members. If you would like to contribute, please reach out to Jennifer at jturner2@brocku.ca.

Stay tuned for essays, updates, and reflections connected to ongoing RC/W conversations and research.



2. Events

Care Leaves and Care Time for All Book Launch

Congratulations to Andrea Doucet and Peter Moss on the publication of [*Care Leaves and Care Time for All: Towards Caring Democracies, Economies, and Worlds*](#). **The book is free and open access with Policy Press.**

The book was launched in panels at the [Cost Action Conference](#) (May 26 – 27) and the International Network on Leave Policies and Research [Annual Seminar](#) (May 28 – 29), both held in Prague at Charles University. It also launched through a hybrid event hosted by the Thomas Coran Research Unit at University College London (UCL) on June 3rd, featuring Andrea Doucet and Peter Moss in conversation with Joan Tronto and Nancy Folbre, moderated by Alison Koslowski. This launch explored how care leaves and care time can be reimagined as part of building more caring democracies, economies, and worlds.

The full video of the UCL book launch is now available on the Reimagining Care/Work YouTube channel [here](#).



Work and Family Researchers Network Conference

[The Work and Family Researchers Network Conference](#) took place in Montréal at Concordia University on June 17-20, 2026. This year's theme was *Centering Care Across the Life Course*. Several RC/W team members participated in panels, presentations, and conference sessions exploring care, work, family policy, parental leave, gender, and social sustainability:

Yasmeen Almomani, **Kim de Laat**, and **Andrea Doucet** presented a poster on hybrid work and gendered experiences of pleasure;



Manlin Cai presented a paper on workplace authority and the gendered division of housework in China;

Kim de Laat organized a panel on rethinking work and care which included **Eva Jewell** and **Andrea Doucet** as panelists;

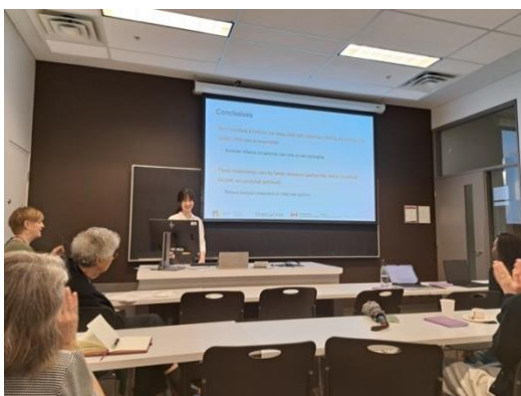
Andrea Doucet participated in a book panel for *Care Leaves and Care Time for All* with **Rachael Pettigrew**, Mara Yerkes, and Alison Koslowski;



Alison Koslowski (with **Andrea Doucet** and Ann-Zofie Duvander) presented an overview of their forthcoming book *Caring for the Future: Parental Leave and Pathways to Sustainability* (UCL press, 2027).



Donna Lero and **Susan Prentice** organized a panel on how work schedules, flexible work arrangements, and family characteristics shape child care use patterns and work-family conflict, with **Manlin Cai**, **Sylvia Fuller**, **Grace Gletsu**, and **Kim de Laat**;



Sophie Mathieu organized two panels: one on family policy, inequalities and family strategies with insights from the Quebec model; and a second on inclusive and equitable parental leave policies and lessons learned from Quebec and the Nordic countries which included **Lindsey McKay**, **Safa Ragued**, and **Marie Gendron** as panelists;



Rachael Pettigrew, Sarah Orton, and Carol Armstrong presented a paper on Canadian employees receiving fertility care;

Yue Qian and **Sylvia Fuller** presented a paper on overwork, wage returns, and gender inequality;

Natasha Stecy-Hildebrandt, **Rachael Pettigrew**, **Mansi Wadhwa**, and **Andrea Doucet** presented a paper on parental leave inequities in Canada and employer-provided wage top-ups.



It was wonderful to see so many faces at WFRN!



Rachael, Susan, Andrea, Kim, Yasmeen, Sophie



Manlin and Kim



Donna and Andrea



Andrea and former/current postdoctoral fellows/colleagues:
Front: Eva, Andrea, Kim; Back: Lindsey, Sophie, Natasha



Susan and Rachael



Andrea and Susan



Andrea, Alison, Natasha, Sophie, Rachael, Lindsey



Sophie and Yasmeen



Some members of our team met for dinner in Montreal



Sophie, Andrea, Lindsey

Other Events and Activities:

Sophie Mathieu spoke at a recent conference ***Beyond Birth Rates: Advancing a Pro-Alignment Approach to Low Fertility in North America***, held at McGill University on August 20-21, sponsored by the Vanier Institute of the Family and McGill's Centre on Population Dynamics. Her talk focused on fertility and gender equality in Quebec and can be found [here](#).

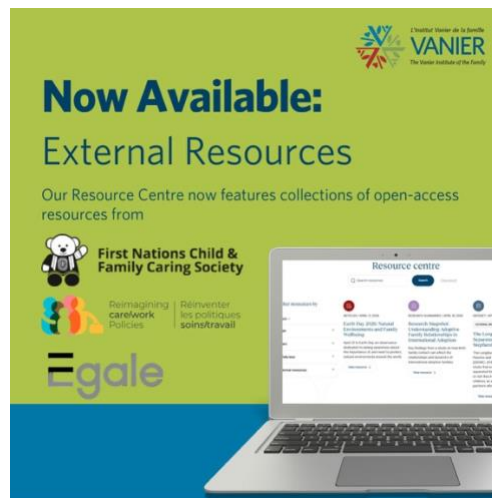
Learning from Beyond Our Borders: Members of our team travelled to Denmark in mid-September to learn about the Nordic country's well-regarded child care system. The team included **Martha Friendly** (The Childcare Resource and Research Unit [CRRU]), **Susan Prentice**, **Kate Bezanson**, and **Jane Beach**, along with Monica Lysack. The study tour's purpose was to identify lessons from policy and practice that could benefit Canada's developing early learning and child care (ELCC) system. Much of the time was spent in the northern municipality of Aalborg, where the team had the benefit of hearing, seeing, and discussing pedagogy and quality, governance, financing, roles and responsibilities, research, and system-building with public officials, researchers, parents, and pedagogical experts. The team plans to work to develop and disseminate public resources to share the study visit's many learnings.



Photo captions: Clockwise from top left: Outdoor naps at an Aalborg child care centre; learning about municipal role in Danish child care; children playing outdoors at an Aalborg child care centre; and Canadian study team, with municipal officials, pedagogues and parents.

3. Some of our recent project outputs:

Our publications and project outputs are now being featured in the **Vanier Institute of the Family** Resource Centre! You can access these resources [here](#). This will improve accessibility to our peer reviewed resources. Thank you to **Serena Danssen** (Vanier) and **Jennifer Turner** (RC/W) for leading this initiative!



The **Vanier Institute of the Family** also featured **Andrea Doucet's** work in a [research spotlight](#), highlighting her contributions to scholarship on care, fatherhood, care/work, and the social organization of caring responsibilities.

Here are a few of our recent peer-reviewed publications:

Karen Foster, Andrea Doucet, and **Laura Fisher** published [What's different about rural families? How rurality shapes gender divisions and relations of care/work in families and communities in Canada](#) in *Gender, Place, and Culture*. The **Vanier Institute of the Family** has also featured this as a [research snapshot](#).

Hilarius Kofinti, Stephanie Fearon, and **Andrea Doucet** published a journal article in *Social Sciences* entitled [Research on Black Fatherhood in Canada and the United States: Theoretical and Methodological Considerations](#).

This article is open access.

Kenya Thompson, Lindsey McKay, Rachael Pettigrew, Sophie Mathieu, Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay, Safa Ragued, Andrea Doucet, and **Natasha Stecy-Hildebrandt** have published the [2026 Canada Country Note](#) in the 22nd International Review of Leave Policies and Related Research.

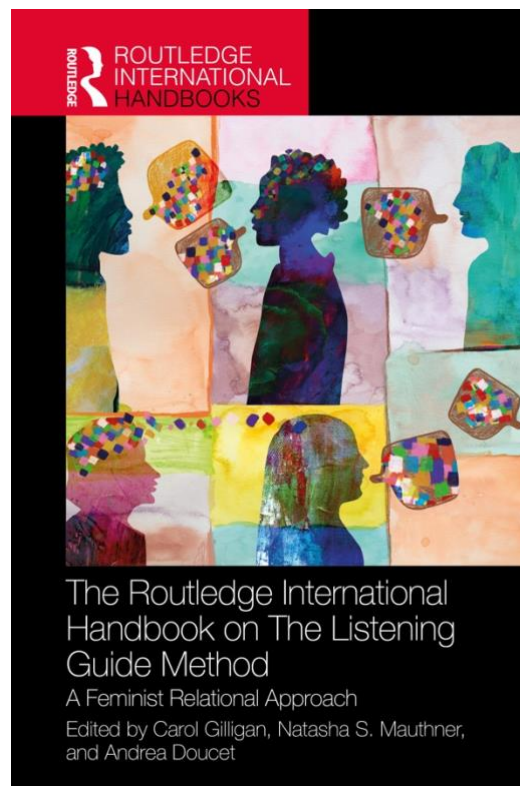
Andrea Doucet published an open-access article in *Community, Work, and Family* entitled [Ecological issues are care issues and care issues are ecological issues: three lessons for care researchers from Rachel Carson](#).

Some of our team members (**Lindsey McKay, Andrea Doucet, Sophie Mathieu,** and **Rachael Pettigrew**) also collaborated with **UNICEF Canada** on their latest policy brief, [Parental Leave for Every Child](#).

The Childcare Resource and Research Unit released the latest edition of [Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada](#) earlier this year.

Gordon Cleveland has published several blog posts on child care policy issues which can be found [here](#).

Carol Gilligan, Natasha Mauthner, and **Andrea Doucet** have published an edited collection, *The Routledge International Handbook on the Listening Guide Method: A Feminist Relational Approach*. This handbook is the first to bring together a comprehensive collection of chapters dedicated entirely to the Listening Guide, mapping its origins, showcasing its many adaptations, and highlighting insights from long-time practitioners. **Eva Jewell, Andrea Doucet,** and **Jessica Falk** have contributed a chapter (which will soon be available open access) on remaking the Listening Guide in a Canadian Indigenous context. More details can be found [here](#).



4. Team News

Manlin Cai received her doctorate in Sociology from UBC and has joined our team as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow working with **Sylvia Fuller** at UBC. She is using Canadian linked employer-employee data to examine women's earnings trajectories following motherhood, with a focus on immigrant-native born comparison.

Manlin has also received the Honourable Mention for the [2026 Kathleen Christensen Dissertation Award](#) from the Work and Family Researchers Network!



Gordon Cleveland received the Champion of Human Services Award for 2026 by the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association.

Martha Friendly formally received her Order of Canada at a [ceremony](#) at Rideau Hall on March 19.



Eva Jewell has been named the 2026-27 [Distinguished Visiting Indigenous Faculty Fellow](#) at the Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto.

Sophie Mathieu was the Work and Family Researchers Network [Featured Scholar](#) for July.

Meghan Mendelin received her doctorate in Global Development Studies from Queen's University and has joined our team as a Mitacs Postdoctoral Research Fellow working with **Martha Friendly, the Childcare Resource and Research Unit**, and **Susan Prentice** on the ownership and auspice in child care delivery and the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) plan.



Marco Sasso, research assistant/student graduated with his MA in Critical Sociology from Brock University on October 16th.

Olivia Schmidt, research associate/student successfully defended her MA in Critical Sociology, *Borders as Mirrors: Student Experiences at Niagara's U.S./Canada Land Borders*, in September and will graduate in Spring 2027.

Congratulations to all!

You can read more about our team news [here](#).

If we have missed any significant achievements from our team, please let us know and we will include them in our next newsletter and on our website.

Please check out our website for updates on [publications and outputs](#), and [events and opportunities](#).

A big thank you to Diana Tzinis for the beautiful illustrations included in our newsletters and on our website and Jocelyne Tougas for all French translations.



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