



EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE PRACTITIONERS CELEBRATE NATIONAL CHILD DAY – NOVEMBER 20

For Immediate Release

[November 18, 2009 – Ottawa, Ontario] This year marks the 20th anniversary of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**. Canada signed the Convention in 1989, along with so many other nations, that the Convention became the most widely and rapidly ratified human rights treaty in history.

The Convention obliges governments to ensure that they invest in children to the highest possible standard, make decisions in the best interests of children, and reach children without discrimination or inequity. Recommendations from the United Nations in 2003 and 2008, and from the Senate in 2007, have identified *the need to do more to fulfill our promises*.

Internationally, Canada was among the founders of the United Nations and has a long history of support for human rights. Canada played a significant role in drafting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child between 1979 and 1989, and in the Optional Protocols related to child exploitation and to children in armed forces.

On **November 20**, Canadians will commemorate National Child Day. This is a day when people across the country take time to celebrate Canada's most important resource: our children.

Children's Rights and Child Care

- The CRC gives children of working parents the right to benefit from child care services and facilities for which they are eligible (Article 18).
- Article 23 outlines specific rights of children with disabilities, including the right to a full and decent life, education, training, recreational opportunities and preparation for employment. Child care services should be provided for children with disabilities, disorders, and/or health impairments.
- The CRC requires Canada to establish standards that ensure child care staff will be suitable and will provide competent supervision (Article 3).
- Caregivers are responsible for providing the child with direction and guidance in the exercise of their rights (Article 5).
- Children have the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts (Article 31).
- Child care also provides opportunities for rights education. Child care programs can help promote tolerance and respect for human rights (Article 29).

On November 20, and every day of the year, celebrate children and their rights.

The **Canadian Child Care Federation** is a vibrant partnership of provincial and territorial child care organizations that represents over 11,000 members, including child care practitioners working in centres and family child care, academics, parents and policy makers. CCCF is committed to excellence in early learning and child care through best and promising practice, capacity building, and collaborations, networks and partnerships.

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