



Canadian Coalition
for the Rights of Children
Coalition canadienne
pour les droits des enfants

Issue 4, September 2009

Newsletter

Youth Rights and the Military:
check out a new guide on the youth page of our
website: www.rightsofchildren.ca

CHILD RIGHTS AWARDS



Nominate a Canadian company, agency, government department, or individual who deserves to be recognized in one of the following categories:

- **Children's Rights Champion:** for work that makes an obvious difference in the lives of children
- **Children's Rights Trailblazer:** for original approaches that model rights-consistent activities
- **Children's Rights Supporter:** for supporting efforts to promote children's rights
- **Article 12 Award:** for a young person (under the age of 18) who exercises voice and participation for child rights

Send us a letter outlining why the nominee should receive an award, contact information for your nominee, and your contact information.

Deadline: September 30, 2009

Send submissions to:

Child Rights Nominating Committee
Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children
937 Alpine Avenue,
Ottawa, ON
K2B 5R9

20 years for Children's Rights: AGM Plans

Mark **November 18** for the CCRC Annual General Meeting. Plans include celebration of progress for children's rights to honour the 20th Anniversary of the Convention and reflection on the challenges ahead in Canada and internationally.

Young people and international and national speakers will stimulate discussion of next steps for Canadians who care about children's rights. The meeting will be held in Ottawa this year. Watch for more information on specific time and place.

Members of the coalition are involved in a number of events across the country around November 20. Check locally and join in efforts to raise public awareness about the importance of children's rights across Canada.

Progress on Complaints Mechanism for Children's Rights

On the international level, development of a complaints mechanism for the Convention on the Rights of the Child is moving forward. The CCRC supports development of this tool, as one element in stronger mechanisms for implementation of children's rights. In Canada, a next step is the establishment of a national Children's Commissioner with a mandate that includes investigation of concerns brought to the office by children.

Progress on the OP discussions will be posted on the CCRC website and the board is forming a committee to focus on this. If you are interested in this, please send a message to Kathy Vandergrift, Chair, at info@ccrc.ca.

Still Waiting for Canada's Third Report

The CCRC has written letters to two cabinet ministers asking for the immediate release of Canada's Third Report on implementation of the Convention in Canada. The report is now 9 months late and there has been no public consultation on progress in Canada. The CCRC continues to highlight that 45 recommendations from the second review would benefit Canada's children and need to be taken seriously. The CCRC will facilitate public discussion on this in the lead-up to the 20th Anniversary in November. Watch for more information on the CCRC website.

First child rights case at Canadian Human Rights Commission

For the first time in Canadian history, the Canadian Human Rights Commission is hearing an appeal about discrimination in the provision of public services for children. The first session of a tribunal hearing on an appeal by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations was held on September 14. It will reconvene on November 16 to hear testimony about discrimination against aboriginal children in the provision of funds for child welfare services in Canada. You can be a witness through the following website:

www.fncfcs.com.

Our Board Members

Kathy Vandergrift, Chairperson
Zuhy Saheed, Canadian Association for Community Living, Secretary
Tara Collins, Landon Pearson Child Rights Resource Center, Treasurer
Katherine Covell, Children's Rights Center, Cape Breton University
Lisa Wolff, UNICEF Canada
Sara Austin, World Vision Canada
Sarah Stevenson, Plan Canada
Samira Ahmed, Student, University of Ottawa
Carole Carpenter, Child Studies Program, York University
Nadja Pollaert, International Bureau for Children's Rights
Sarah Chandler, Child Rights Consultant
Emily Chan, Justice for Children and Youth

For more information about the Coalition visit our website:
www.rightsofchildren.ca