

Advocate for Children and Youth Celebrates Youth as Change-Makers on National Child Day

SASKATOON– The Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth, Corey O'Soup, recognizes young people across Saskatchewan in honour of National Child Day.

National Child Day commemorates the adoption of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) to the UN General Assembly in 1989 and is celebrated on November 20th each year. This day is dedicated to raising awareness and educating all people on the rights of children and youth which Canada adopted in 1991.

The four core principles of the UNCRC are; non-discrimination, best interests of the child, right to life, survival and development, and respect for the views of the child. The Advocate has made it a priority for his office to elevate the voice of young people in Saskatchewan and to empower them to become change-makers.

“Our young people are capable of doing amazing work in this province and need to be part of solutions regarding issues that affect them,” said O'Soup.

O'Soup met with a group of youth who created the Survival 101 and the Day by Day handbook that is used as a tool for youth who face mental health issues.

“These young people know what they need and I'm glad they created a resource for all youth who will benefit. It shows one of many ways that our young people can be change-makers,” said O'Soup.

Survivor 101 is a group of students from five Saskatoon high schools, who come together to help each other cope and express their experiences with mental health issues. Surrounded by supportive adults, the youth inspire each other and others, to tackle the issues that challenge so many.

Article 12 of the UNCRC highlights that children and youth have an explicit right to have a voice in all matters and decisions that may impact them. Initiatives like Survivor 101 provide young people with a platform to be a part of solutions and drive real change. Surrounded by adults who provide the youth with space and support, these types of programs fully honour the right to participate.

“This generation will inform and steer us in the right direction, but for that to happen, they need our full support,” which O'Soup says, “begins by welcoming their voices to decision tables.”

The Advocate for Children and Youth is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. He leads a team of professionals who work on behalf of the province's young people. Our vision is that the rights, well-being and voice of children and youth are respected and valued.

-30-

For more information contact:

Dan Harder
Communications Coordinator
Media Relations
(306)-933-6700

NEWS RELEASE

ALBERTA
Child and Youth Advocate
Ph: (780) 422-6056
Fax: (780) 422-3675

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Representative for Children
and Youth
Ph: (250) 356-6710
Fax: (250) 356-0837

MANITOBA
Children's Advocate
Ph: (204) 988-7440
Fax: (204) 988-7472

NEW BRUNSWICK
Office of the Ombudsman,
Child and Youth Advocate
Ph: (506) 453-2789
Fax: (506) 453-5599

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND
LABRADOR**
Child and Youth Advocate
Ph: (709) 753-3888
Fax: (709) 753-3988

NOVA SCOTIA
Office of the Ombudsman,
Youth Services
Ph: (902) 424-6780
Fax: (902) 424-6675

NUNAVUT
Representative for Children
and Youth
Ph: 867-975-5090
Fax: 867-979-0444

ONTARIO
Ontario Child Advocate
Ph: (416) 325-5669
Fax: (416) 325-5681

QUEBEC
Commission des droits de la
personne et des droits de la
jeunesse
Tél. : (514) 873-5146
Fax. : (514) 873-2373

SASKATCHEWAN
Children's Advocate
Ph: (306) 933-6700
Fax: (306) 933-8406

YUKON
Yukon Child & Youth
Advocate
Ph: (867) 456-5575
Fax: (867) 456-5574

Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates urges increased awareness of children's rights this National Child Day

November 20, 2018 –The Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates (CCCYA) encourages all Canadians to participate in National Child Day activities across the country today and throughout the week.

“National Child Day is an annual opportunity to shine a spotlight on the rights of the child, and our efforts to advance and uphold these rights every day,” said Del Graff, Alberta Child and Youth Advocate, and new President of the CCCYA. “The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) spells out the basic human rights for children and youth, and we encourage everyone to stand up and actively promote these rights.”

It has been almost 30 years since the ratification of the UNCRC. Canada became a signatory to the UNCRC in May 1990 and ratified the document in 1991. The UNCRC enshrines a broad range of rights including health, safety, well-being, culture, identity and education for children. National Child Day commemorates the ratification of the UNCRC.

Although Canada is doing well in some areas, our governments are clearly falling short with respect to child rights in others, such as informing children and adults about child rights and including child rights in school curricula. Another area of concern is Canada's failure to address the unique challenges of Indigenous children and youth – specifically the disproportionate number of Indigenous children and youth in care and custody, lack of equitable access to mental health and substance use treatment and services, and insufficient resources and planning to address the high rate of suicide amongst Indigenous young people.

As child advocates, we strive to ensure children and youth are aware of their rights. It is often difficult for a child or youth to recognize when their rights are being violated. That is why we call upon individual Canadians, as well as governments, to make it a priority to be aware of the UNCRC, to take a stand in supporting child rights, and to take action in ensuring the rights of the children and youth in our lives are protected.

To read the UNCRC: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

About the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates

The Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates is an association of government-appointed children's advocates, ombudsman and representatives from nine provinces and two territories: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Québec, Saskatchewan, and Yukon. Advocates are independent officers of the legislatures in their respective jurisdictions.

NEWS RELEASE
CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATES
November 20, 2018

Media Inquiries:

Tim Chander
Communications Manager
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (Alberta)
780-638-4064

Jeff Rud
Communications
Representative for Children and Youth (British Columbia)
250-356-0835

Ainsley Krone
Deputy Advocate
The Office of the Children's Advocate (Manitoba)
204-988-7475

Heidi Cyr
Communications Coordinator
Child and Youth Advocate (New Brunswick)
506-453-2789

Wilma MacInnis
Communications
Advocate for Children and Youth (NL and Labrador)
709-753-3888

Ron Crocker
Communications
Office of the Ombudsman, Youth Services (Nova Scotia)
902-424-2011

Kim Foster
Manager of Communications and Public Awareness
Representative for Children and Youth (Nunavut)
867-975-5091

Akihiko Tse
Communications
Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth (Ontario)
416-325-5994

NEWS RELEASE
CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATES
November 20, 2018

Media Inquiries:

Geneviève Dorais-Beauregard
Directrice adjointe éducation-coopération et communications
Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse (Quebec)
514-873-5146 (ext. 211)

Jean-François Gagnon (Alternate / Quebec)
514-873-5146 (ext. 230)

Dan Harder
Communications Coordinator
Media Relations
Advocate for Children & Youth (Saskatchewan)
306-933-6700

Lisa Broda, PhD
Deputy Advocate
Advocate for Children & Youth (Alternate – Saskatchewan)
(306) 933-6700

Annette King
Child & Youth Advocate
Yukon Children and Youth Advocate Office (Yukon)
867-456-5575

Bengie Clethero (Alternate / Yukon)
Deputy Advocate
867-456-5575