

ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH CELEBRATES NATIONAL CHILD DAY

SASKATOON — The Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth Bob Pringle will mark Canada's National Child Day with two special events in Estevan on Tuesday, November 20th.

In the morning, the Advocate will join Gainer the Gopher and members of the Roughriders at Hillcrest Elementary School during a special assembly with students and staff. In the afternoon, he will host a meet and greet that is open to the public at the Days Inn from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

"National Child Day is a special opportunity each year to celebrate our children and youth, and to raise awareness about their interests and well-being in the province," said Pringle. "We are using this occasion to meet and learn from people about community and provincial issues affecting them and their families."

The day commemorates Canada's ratification of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which spells out the basic human rights to which children under the age of 18 are entitled. It was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1989 and ratified by Canada in 1991. The Convention says that governments are in charge of making sure that children have rights and that those rights are respected.

The Advocate for Children and Youth is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan who has the responsibility to advise the provincial government on matters related to children and youth.

"We've chosen to visit southeastern Saskatchewan as it is an area that has seen some of the most significant economic and related social changes from the recent prosperity in the province," said Pringle. "We want to ensure that everyone benefits from such growth and believe that government has a responsibility to support communities as they go through such significant changes."

Pringle will also meet with civic leaders in Weyburn today to discuss any concerns they have about children, youth and families in their city.

"I believe that part of my role is to encourage partnership between the provincial government and communities," said Pringle. "We can work together to tap into the vast resources of ideas and innovative solutions to issues affecting children and youth. Saskatchewan has the ability to become a leader and the best place to live for all children, youth and families—not only in Canada, but in the world."

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