

Message from the Advocate

Hello and welcome to our eighth newsletter. I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season and that you are looking forward to the coming winter months. Get out there and enjoy the snow but remember to always be safe.

Since our last newsletter we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This included visits to various organizations as well as presentations regarding the rights of children and youth.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and take the challenge of completing our "Rights Stuff" section and see if you know the difference between a right, want, or need!



Carol A. Chafe



What's New

November 20th is National Child Day and in 2014 this day marked 25 years since the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC is an international human rights treaty that outlines the rights of all children. Since Canada has ratified the Convention, all, legislation, policies and procedures that govern services for children and youth should be reflective of those rights.

There are 54 articles in the UNCRC that represent the many rights children should have and how governments and organizations will work to ensure children have these rights. Some of the rights include: the right to education, the right to identity, the right to play, the right to privacy and the right to health services.

The Advocate for Children and Youth operates from a rights-based perspective and applies the UNCRC as the basis for all advocacy work. It is an important part of the Advocate's mandate to ensure that the services being provided to children and youth in Newfoundland and Labrador uphold their rights. In addition, through outreach initiatives, the Advocate for Children and Youth educates the public about children's rights by presenting to professionals, community members, and children and youth across Newfoundland and Labrador.

To celebrate National Child Day on November 20, two staff members attended a Brighter Futures playgroup in Mount Pearl and on November 23, two staff members attended the City of St. John's Move It Family Fun Day.



"Brighter Futures, National Child Day 2014"

Out and About

During this quarter, ACY staff once again had the opportunity to visit communities across Newfoundland and Labrador and present to children, youth and professionals about the work of our office and about children's rights.

In October, staff visited Springdale and the South Coast of Labrador. We would like to thank everyone who took the opportunity to meet with us:

- **Child, Youth and Family Services – (Staff from Springdale and Baie Verte Offices)**
- **Training Wheels Family Resource Centre – Springdale**
- **Community Youth Network – Springdale**
- **Indian River Academy (Students and Staff) – Springdale**
- **Indian River High School (Students and Staff) – Springdale**
- **Child, Youth and Family Services – (Staff – South Coast of Labrador)**
- **Family Resource Centre – L'Anse au Loup**
- **Community Youth Network – L'Anse au Loup**
- **Labrador Straits Academy (Students and Staff) - L'Anse au Loup**
- **RCMP – Forteau**

In December, ACY staff conducted four presentations to social workers, supervisors and zone managers of Child, Youth and Family Services at the Charles R. Bell Building, St. John's.

As part of our continued commitment to education and promotion, the office is currently planning outreach visits to other communities in the Province for 2015.

The "Rights" Stuff

Rights, Wants, and Needs - Label the items depicted below as a Right, a Want, or a Need.



Education

[_____]



Your Own Room

[_____]



Sunshine

[_____]



Candy

[_____]



Healthy Food

[_____]



Warm Clothes

[_____]



Safety

[_____]



To know Your Rights

[_____]

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

On November 20th, 2014, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child celebrated its 25th birthday. Twenty-five years ago, the world made a promise to children: that we would do everything in our power to protect and promote their rights. The Convention has 54 articles in total. Some of those rights are listed below (simplified version):

- **You have the Right to go to school. (Article 28)**
- **The Right to play and rest. (Article 31)**
- **You have a Right to give your opinion. (Article 12)**
- **You have a Right to know your Rights! (Article 42)**
- **The Right to be treated fairly, free from all discrimination. (Article 2)**
- **The Right to be cared for when you are sick. (Article 24)**
- **The Right to practice your culture, language and religion. (Article 30)**

Those are just a few of your rights. Want to learn them all? The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is available online at www.unicef.org.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss

Rights, Wants, Needs Activity Answer Key: **RIGHTS:** – EDUCATION, SAFETY, TO KNOW YOUR RIGHTS; **WANTS:** – YOUR OWN ROOM, CANDY; **NEEDS:** – SUNSHINE, HEALTHY FOOD, WARM CLOTHES.

We Need Your Help!

To ensure we reach children and youth and the public, please contact us to add your name to our distribution list and we will send copies as requested.



Contact the Advocate for Children & Youth
if you or someone you know is in need of help:

Phone: (709) 753-3888 • Toll Free: 1-877-753-3888
TTY: (709) 753-4366 • Fax: (709) 753-3988 • Email: office@ocya.nl.ca
WebSite: www.childandyouthadvocate.nl.ca

Or drop by and speak with someone in our office:

193 LeMarchant Road, St. John's, NL • A1C 2H5 • Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm