

ADVOCATOR

ISSUE 9 April 2015

Message from the Advocate

Hello and welcome to our ninth newsletter. I hope you have had a happy winter and enjoyed all the snow in a fun and safe way.

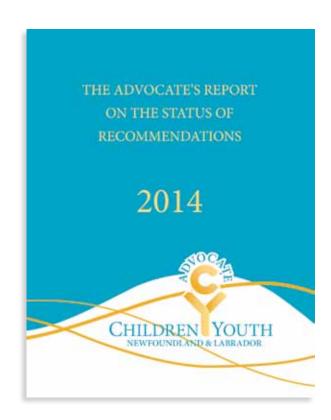
In our newsletter you will learn more about our reviews and



Carol A. Chafe

investigations process and the ones we have completed over the past several years as well as the release of our very first "The Advocate's Report on the Status of Recommendations 2014". This is another important part of how we provide advocacy for the children and youth of our province.

Be sure and take the time and see just how many words you can unscramble to identify some of the many government services that are available for children and youth here in Newfoundland and Labrador.



What We Do

Reviews and Investigations:

Reviews and investigations are carried out pursuant to **Section 15(1) subsection (c)** of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*. The process for reviews and investigations may include review of documents, interviews of individuals as necessary, analysis of facts, and release of findings and recommendations to government and agencies and follow up respecting the recommendations.

An investigation or a review may involve a matter concerning a child, youth or group of children or youth receiving services from any department or agency of government. Since 2006, the Office has completed a total of seven (7) investigations and four (4) case reviews with a total of 173 recommendations:

The seven (7) Investigations include:

- Turner Review and Investigation, 2006;
- Lost in Transition, 2009;
- An Investigation into Janeway Psychiatry Unit J4D Programs and Services, 2010;
- The Child Upstairs... Joey's Story, 2011;
- Turning a Blind Eye, 2012;
- Out of Focus, 2012;
- Sixteen, 2013.

The four (4) case reviews include:

- Justice Complaint Emergency Intake, 2011;
- Youth in Adult Holding Facilities: Case 1, 2011;
- Youth Corrections Decisions Regarding Open Custody Placements, 2011;
- Youth in Adult Holding Facilities: Case 2, 2013.

In March 2014 the Advocate released *The Advocate's Report on the Status of Recommendations 2014*. This report provides a summary of the status of all recommendations flowing from completed reviews and investigations. To read this and all our reports please visit:

http://www.childandyouthadvocate.nf.ca/pdfs ACYRecommendationReport2014.pdf

Out and About

As part of our outreach program, staff from the office travel to various parts of the province throughout the year and meet with the public, professionals, and children and youth. In addition to educating people about children's rights, we reach out to communities across the province to provide information about what we do and how we can assist in advocating for children and youth.

To finish off the 2014-2015 year of outreach across the province, two ACY staff members facilitated presentations to two groups of social workers with the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services from the St. John's region.

As the new fiscal year is just beginning, ACY staff will soon be traveling throughout the province as part of our 2015-2016 outreach initiative. We would like to thank everyone who took the opportunity to meet with us over the past year of outreach and look forward to another year of making meaningful connections in communities and spreading the word about the importance of children's rights!

This past March, one of our Advocacy Specialists attended Thrive's annual professional development day. It was a great opportunity to learn about programs and initiatives occurring for children and youth in the province and to connect with professionals and organizations. Thank you to Thrive, for once again putting off a great day of learning!

The ACY wants to hear from your organization!

Would your organization like to be featured in the ACY's next newsletter? Are you looking to reach out to professionals and children and youth in Newfoundland and Labrador? We are inviting organizations/agencies who provide services to children and youth to write submissions for publication in our quarterly newsletter. Please note that submissions must be limited to 150 words or less. Reach out to our newsletter readers by telling us about how you are making a difference for children and youth! For more information or to submit to the newsletter, please contact office@ocya.nl.ca

The "Rights" Stuff

Article 4: Government's Responsibility

Article 4 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child:* "States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention."

Article 4 of the *Convention* speaks to the government's responsibility to ensure children's rights are protected. Governments must give appropriate priority and attention to children in order to implement the whole *Convention* effectively.

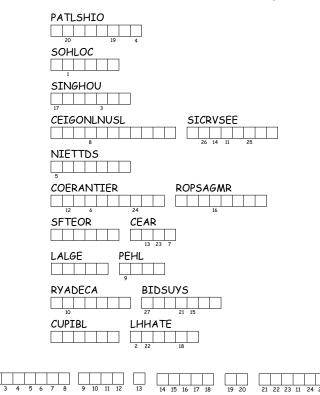
The mandate of the Advocate for Children and Youth (ACY) is to ensure that the rights and interests of children and youth are protected and advanced and that their voices are heard and considered. Reviews and Investigations completed by the Advocate include recommendations to government departments and agencies with the aim to improve services available to children and youth. These recommendations are intended to encourage positive change so that available programs and initiatives are in-keeping with the rights guaranteed to young people under the *Convention*.

The ACY will continue to work with government departments and agencies to help ensure children's rights are a priority when delivering services.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." ~ Anne Frank

Services for Children and Youth

Unscramble the clues to reveal some of the government services available to children and youth. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to the corresponding numbered cells below the clue words to reveal the hidden message.



PUSHIC HEALTH; MESSAGE: CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO SERVICES.

ANSWER KEY: HOSPITAL, SCHOOL, HOUSING, COUNSELLING SERVICES, DENTIST, SCHOOL, HOUSING, COUNSELLING SERVICES, DENTIST, SCHOOL, HOUSING, COUNSELLING SERVICES, DENTIST, STANDARD KEY, HOSPITAL, SCHOOL, HOUSING, COUNSELLING SERVICES, DENTIST, STANDARD KEY, HOSPITAL, STANDARD KEY, HOSPITAL STANDARD KEY, HOSPITAL STANDARD KEY, STANDARD KEY

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