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Office of the Child and Youth

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MEDIA STATEMENT November 20, 2024

Commemorating the Rights of Children on National Child Day

The Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates (CCCYA) is proud to celebrate National Child Day on November 20th which represents the 35th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) by the United Nations General Assembly. This day is a time to commemorate the rights of children and youth and promote togetherness in creating safe and nurturing environments for all children.

In 1991, Canada ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which includes 54 articles that set out civil, political, economic, health, social, and cultural rights of the child. This convention serves as a guiding framework for our efforts to uphold the rights and well-being of all children. National Child Day is an opportunity to reflect on the progress made and to commit to continuing to advocate for children's rights.

The CCCYA is a national organization made up of representatives from the Canadian provinces and territories who work together to promote and protect the rights of children and youth.

Dr. Lisa Broda, President of the CCCYA stated that "2024 has been a challenging year for Canada's youth. Despite the obstacles, we have seen incredible resilience and determination among our young people." Broda added that "while we continue to prioritize national advocacy, we also recognize and applaud the many accomplishments of Canada's young people. From their ingenuity and resourcefulness, children and youth serve as inspiration and optimism for us all."

"The perspectives and participation of young people is pivotal in shaping our understanding of their challenges and aspirations, and are fundamental to effectively tackling these issues," said Broda. "The CCCYA Council members promote and uphold the voices of all children and youth. Children are not just the future, they are champions of change, and it is our duty to empower and uplift their voices to create a better future for everyone," said Broda.

We encourage all Canadians to take some time to celebrate the amazing young people of this country and support all children and youth to live to their full potential. Learn more about National Child Day and the UNCRC at ccya.ca or unicef.org/child-rights-convention.

The Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates is an association of children's Advocates, Representatives, and Ombuds from across Canada who are independent of the legislatures in their respective jurisdictions, with legislative mandates to promote and protect children's human rights through complaint resolution, advice to government, amplifications of children and youth voices and public education functions.

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