

Message from the Advocate

Hello and welcome to our fifth newsletter. We have had a very busy quarter with many requests for advocacy and ongoing work with our investigations.



Carol A. Chafe

In this issue you will see that we are highlighting a particular area of work in our office - that is Education and Promotion, which includes all the ways we reach out to children and youth and to the public to ensure they understand the rights of all children and youth. We have a provincial mandate and while we are located in St. John's, we use many different ways to reach out throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

We have a variety of information pamphlets, promotional items, a website, newsletters, annual report, outreach and presentations that help everyone understand the rights of children and youth and the advocacy services we provide.

We also ensure that we continue to learn by attending conferences and education sessions and by conducting ongoing research. Education is everyone's right! I hope you enjoy our newsletter.

Have a Happy Spring!



What We Do

Education and Promotion is an important part of our work. In this newsletter we focus on how we are educating the public about our office and how we are continuing to learn and grow!

We take every opportunity to help children learn about their rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Here are some of the ways we promote education:

Outreach Program – a chance to get out in the community and learn about the issues children and youth are facing throughout our province and to talk with child and youth serving agencies about the work they do.

Annual Public Report – An overview we share every year of what we have accomplished which includes our statistics, programs and new initiatives.

Educational Materials – You will find lots of educational and promotional information on our website at

<http://www.childandyouthadvocate.nf.ca>

Don't forget to click on the publication tab to view our pamphlets on child and youth rights.

Media – the Advocate often speaks in the media regarding issues that concern the rights of children and youth and to inform the public where there is a need to improve services for their well-being.

Individual Advocacy – Every day we speak to people who call us and help them to understand their rights and responsibilities and the services available to them.

Presentations – Did you know that we offer presentations for children and youth of all ages and to all professionals? We also are available to engage in educational opportunities at conferences, either via a booth or a presentation.

If you are interested in our office doing a presentation or attending a conference please contact us at office@ocya.nf.ca or phone (709) 753-3888, toll-free 1-877-753-3888.

Out & About

Outreach:

Our Provincial Outreach Program gives staff the exciting chance to visit various regions across Newfoundland and Labrador throughout the year to educate children, youth, professionals and the public on the role of the office, as well as children's rights and responsibilities. Outreach also allows ACY staff to learn first-hand about the issues that children and youth are facing in different areas of the province.

As the new fiscal year is just beginning, we are unveiling our new outreach schedule. Over the coming months ACY staff will be visiting Holyrood, Harbour Breton and Springdale!

Staff Education:

Over the past four months, we have also taken the time to educate ourselves! We are always looking for ways to learn more about other agencies in the Province and to connect with professionals working with children and youth.

In January, ACY staff were provided with an in-house education session facilitated by Don Hynes, ATIPP Coordinator and Privacy Analyst with the House of Assembly. It was a great opportunity for us to be reminded of the importance of privacy rights and legislation!

In February, three of our staff attended Thrive's annual professional development day. Kudos to Thrive for bringing so many professionals who work with youth together for a day of learning!

In March, all 12 of our staff participated in two ACY staff development days. Thanks to all our presenters:

Choices for Youth Leadership Council

Angela Crockwell, *Thrive*

Paula Soper, *Moving Forward*

Zach Marshall, *Diversity Consultant*



Angela Crockwell, *Thrive*



Zach Marshall, *Diversity Consultant*

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.



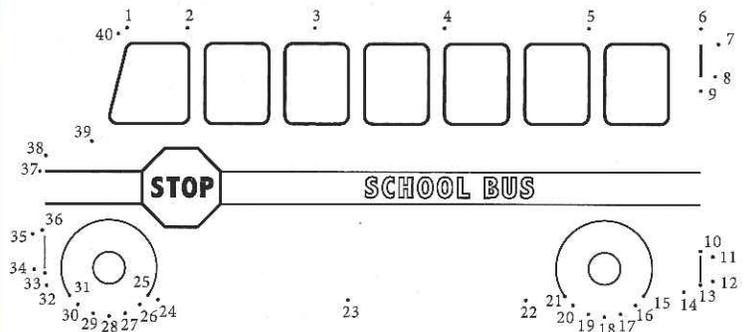
The "Rights" Stuff

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child:

Article 28 – Education Is Every Child's Right

All children have a right to an education

Complete the dot-to-dot picture below to help these children arrive at school.



A Child's Right to an Education – Why is Education Important?

Did you know that 57 million children around the world do not attend school? Some children are not allowed to attend school. Some children are afraid to go to school because they are bullied or feel there is no point in going because they are not doing well. All children have a right to an education, a right to feel safe in school, and a right to special help in school when needed.

Why is Education so important?

- We all have things we would like to have or even need to have. Getting an education helps you to get a better paying job so you can get the things you want and need.
- School is a great place to make friends and join groups with others who like the same activities.
- School helps children and youth meet people from different cultures or with different beliefs.
- A quality education teaches children what they need to do to have a healthier lifestyle.
- School teaches you about the world – all the places you have never been.
- School helps children learn to better express their ideas so they can talk to others about important things, like a child's right to education.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." ~ Nelson Mandela

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