

## Message from the Advocate

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to 2016! Winter is here and it is a great season to enjoy fun outdoor activities, like building a snowman, sledding and skating! Cold weather, ice, and snow can be fun but also dangerous so remember to always play safe.



Carol A. Chafe

Since our last newsletter our staff participated in various activities to celebrate National Child Day. National Child Day is celebrated in Canada on November 20 to commemorate the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child!

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and take the challenge of completing our “Rights Stuff” word puzzle where you will learn more about the UNCRC and the rights of the child!

### Enjoy the Winter and play safe!



## What We Do

Since 1993, National Child Day has been celebrated in Canada on November 20<sup>th</sup>. National Child Day commemorates the United Nations’ adoption of two documents centered on children’s rights: the *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child* on November 20, 1959, and the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* on November 20, 1989.

By ratifying the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* in 1991, Canada made a commitment to ensure that all children are treated with dignity and respect. This commitment includes the opportunity for children to have a voice, be protected from harm, and be provided with their basic needs and every opportunity to reach their full potential. Celebrating National Child Day is about celebrating children as active participants in their own lives and in communities, and as active citizens who can and should meaningfully contribute to decision-making.

The Advocate for Children and Youth (ACY) annually celebrates this important day. This year, two staff members set up an information booth at the Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Youth Centre’s first Youth Information

Day on October 23 in Whitbourne, NL, and at the City of St. John’s Move It Family Fun Day on November 22. These types of opportunities allow staff members to connect with children, youth and other members of the public while educating them about the rights of children, and the ACY’s mandate to protect and advance the rights and interests of children and youth in NL.



Lori-Ann Byrne attending National Child Day Celebrations at NL Sports Center – Power Plex.

## 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. Our staff also take the time to educate ourselves and make connections in the community through various education sessions and opportunities for professional development. 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 August, staff visited Port Aux Basque and in November staff visited Lewisporte – New World Island. We would like to thank everyone who took the opportunity to meet with us:

### Port aux Basques

- CYFS
- Community Youth Network
- Family Resource Centre
- Recreation staff
- RCMP

### Lewisporte- New World Island

- CYFS
- Lewisporte Academy (Grades 4, 5 & 6)
- New World Island Academy (Grades 4, 5 & 6)
- RCMP Lewisporte
- Family Resources Centre Lewisporte
- Y Child Care Centre – New World Island

## 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.childandouthadvocate.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



## The "Rights" Stuff

### Article 1 – Definition of the Child

Article 1 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*: "For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier."

### Word Find

All children and young people are guaranteed those Rights outlined in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Find the Rights listed below by searching forward, backward or diagonally.

X R E B Z G C J K X D R H D  
L R N O I S U L C N I H T V  
H A N A M E Y A L P I E H X  
S T N O I T A C U D E A Q O  
A P L G Q F R G M I I A F J  
Y Y R A U H P M L D Z I F I  
V B I O E A U V E E X C N N  
M F J V T H G M Y N L H O X  
B S R V K E T E C T A K I O  
X G G E L Z C N A I W V G V  
U Q I X E W Z T V T Y X I X  
L A K S T D A P I Y E F L N  
X I F N H H O Q R O R P E N  
Y L I M A F C M P M N W R G

|           |          |            |          |          |
|-----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|
| Education | Family   | Freedom    | Health   | Identity |
| Inclusion | Language | Lawyer     | Media    | Name     |
| Play      | Privacy  | Protection | Religion |          |

### Celebrating Children's Rights

National Child Day is celebrated in Canada on November 20 in recognition of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child* and the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Article one of the *Convention* defines a child as all people less than 18 years of age; which means everyone under this age of majority enjoys the rights celebrated on November 20<sup>th</sup> of each year.

### How can I celebrate National Child Day?

- Learn more - Read about National Child Day and the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*.
- Empower young people to use their voice - Provide them with a copy of the youth-friendly version of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* to remind our children and youth about their rights and how they can protect the rights of others.
- Raise awareness - Use the spoken word, written word, or social media to start conversations about National Child Day with friends, family members, fellow students, and co-workers.

"I raise my voice not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard" ~ Malala Yousafzai