

Message from the Advocate

Hello and welcome to our first Quarterly Newsletter. We are so excited to launch this new initiative as part of our mandate to educate children and youth and the public about who we are and what we do.



Carol A. Chafe

We are here to help children and youth understand that they have rights and to ensure they receive the services from various government departments and agencies that they have a right to receive.

I hope you enjoy the first of many Quarterly Newsletters to come. In this first issue, you will hear about our new logo and re-branding, new booklets and pamphlets available for your information and our Outreach visits around the province. Enjoy our newsletter and see how successful you are in completing our Word Find.

Remember we are here to help.



For further details on the work completed by this Office in 2011-2012, please see our 2011-2012 Annual Report, or for copies of any of our booklets and pamphlets, please visit our website at www.childandyouthadvocate.nl.ca.

WHAT'S NEW

2011-2012 was an exciting year for the Advocate for Children and Youth, one that saw the implementation of a number of new initiatives, including a new organizational structure, new policies and procedures and of course, our re-branding, which resulted in a new logo and new promotional and educational materials!

Established May 12, 2002, the Office recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary and the current Advocate for Children and Youth, Carol A. Chafe, felt



Carol A. Chafe and Nicole Rogers

that it would be an appropriate time to re-visit the brand and to generate a greater public awareness of the Office and a better understanding of the services we provide. The Office partnered with the 2012 Graphic Design class of the College of the North Atlantic (CNA) and launched a logo contest. The students submitted logo design concepts and the winner, Nicole Rogers, went on to do a work-term with us during which she designed new promotional and educational materials for the Office.



Left to Right: Lisa Chidley, Maria Penny, John Barry, Nicole Rogers, Adam Cole

Among our new educational materials are booklets and pamphlets designed to educate children and youth regarding their rights and legal entitlements under various circumstances. Existing pamphlets were also revised and written in age appropriate language for young children, youth and adults. In addition to these materials, the Office has a revised website, new public annual report, new promotional materials and rights- based educational games for presentation purposes during outreach visits. We are very excited about the success of our re-branding efforts and look forward to introducing them to the public over the next fiscal year!

OUT AND ABOUT

During 2012 the Advocate for Children and Youth (ACY) formalized its Provincial Outreach Program, a structured approach to effectively meet the education and promotion mandate under our legislation. The mandate of the ACY includes the legislated responsibility to ensure the rights, interests and viewpoints of children and youth are protected and advanced.

While the Office continuously engages in education and promotion initiatives, the majority of this work is conducted during outreach visits. Provincial Outreach consists of regional monthly visits by individual staff and regional quarterly visits by a team of staff. Through this proactive approach we educate children, youth, service providers and others on the role and mandate of the Office, as well as children's rights and responsibilities.

Our outreach activities include planned visits, presentations and meetings with provincial government agencies, youth-serving agencies and schools.

To meet our mandate the Advocate and her staff conducted 24 meetings and 25 presentations during 2012.

Outreach visits in the four regions of the Province.

Areas visited included:

- Burin
- Clarenville
- Bell Island
- Corner Brook
- Goose Bay
- Marystown
- Carbonear
- Botwood
- Deer Lake
- St. John's
- Bonavista
- Harbour Grace
- Grand Falls-Windsor
- Sheshatshiu

These regional visits provide the Advocate with valuable information regarding challenges experienced by children and youth in accessing government services and programs as well as the opportunity to educate children, youth, government service providers and a wide variety of organizations about children's rights and the challenges they face. As part of our commitment to education and promotion, the Office is currently planning outreach visits to other communities within the Province for 2013.



The Rights Stuff WORD FIND

Find the words listed below by searching forward, backward or diagonally. One word has already been circled and crossed off the list as an example. These 14 words represent just some of the rights guaranteed to children and youth under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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

Children's right to play is sometimes referred to as the "forgotten right", perhaps because it appears to the adult world as a luxury rather than a necessity of life; however, play is an essential part of physical and social development.

Ideas on How to Support a Child's Right to Play

- Set aside time for play in a child's busy day. There are many structured activities available to children; but remember that play time is an extremely valuable time for learning.
- Set aside time for play in an adult's busy day. Join in child's play time. Let the child guide the play, but take the opportunity to reinforce social conventions, such as sharing, taking turns and role-playing.
- Choose an early learning and child care program with a play-based approach.
- Create safe and stimulating play environments within your home.
- Organize within your school and community to create safe places for children to play.

"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." George Bernard Shaw.

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