

## Message from the Advocate

Hello and welcome to our third newsletter. In this issue you will hear about our very interesting Provincial Outreach to the Central Region, our presentation at the Youth Justice Rocks Camp, as well as the attendance of staff at the Biennial Staff Training Conference and the International Summer Course on the Rights of the Child.

I am also very honoured to have been appointed as President of the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates (CCCYA) on September 27th, 2013. The CCCYA is an alliance of the ten children's advocates from across Canada who have mandates to support the rights of children and youth.

Although the legislative mandates of the ten offices differ, the Advocates are all independent officers of the legislature in their respective jurisdictions. Through the Council, we identify areas of mutual concern and work together to develop ways to address issues for children and youth throughout Canada. I am looking forward to continuing to work closely with my colleagues across Canada to further advance the rights of all our children and youth.

For more information on the CCCYA visit <http://www.cccya.ca/content/index.asp>



Carol A. Chafe



Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates

## What's New

From July 12th to July 19th, 2013 the second annual International Summer Course on the Rights of the Child was held in Moncton New Brunswick at the Universite de Moncton. One of our Systemic Advocacy Consultants attended this course and found it to be very beneficial.

The course was a partnership between the University and the New Brunswick's Child and Youth Advocate.

The course was offered in English and French, allowing all attendees the ability to participate. Each year a theme for the course is chosen based on an Article from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The theme for the 2013 Course focused on **Article 19: The Right to Protection**.

Participants came from Child and Youth Advocate Offices across the country, government agencies and advocacy groups from Canada and other parts of the world.

The course discussed a variety of topics including Children in Armed Conflict, Physical Punishment, the Neurology of Violence and Victimization/Abuse of Children and Effective Treatment. The most powerful presentation came from youth who had grown up In Care, and who shared their stories of what it was like to "Be In Care". The presentation was eye opening and it was amazing to see the youth's courage and resiliency which has allowed them to overcome challenges in their lives.

The course also offered opportunities for participants to network and attend social events such as a cultural day trip, a children's concert and the closing ceremony.

The third edition of this course will take place July 2014 and will focus on **Article: 12: The Right to Participate**.



ACY Staff - International Summer Course on the Rights of the Child, Moncton, NB

## Out & About

The mandate of the Advocate for Children and Youth (ACY) includes the legislated responsibility to ensure the rights, interests and viewpoints of children and youth are protected and advanced. In order to meet our mandate and as part of our Provincial Outreach Program, the ACY is committed to completing quarterly visits to regions across Newfoundland and Labrador. The purpose of these visits is to educate children, youth, service providers and others on the role and mandate of the Office, as well as children's rights and responsibilities.

In the second quarter of the 2013-14 fiscal year, the Advocate and a team of her staff visited the Central Region of Newfoundland, specifically Gander and Gambo. During this visit, the Advocate and her staff had the pleasure of meeting with 14 groups of professionals from multiple provincial government departments and community organizations.

The ACY would like to thank everyone who took the opportunity to meet with the Advocate and her staff:

Boys and Girls Club, Gander

Child, Youth and Family Services, Gander, Gambo

Military Family Resource Centre, Gander

Family Resource Centre, Gambo

Open Door Children's Youth Network, Gander

Public Health (Central Health), Gander

Newfoundland and Labrador Housing, Gander

Central Regional Integrated Health Authority

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Gambo Youth Centre



Gander Boys and Girls Club

Also, in August, ACY staff had the opportunity to present to a group of children participating in the Youth Justice Rocks Camp through the Public Legal Information Association of NL. It was fantastic to meet young leaders engaged in learning about the justice system!

Next up on the outreach schedule is Labrador; keep an eye out for our team in the Labrador West/Wabush area this fall!

In September the Advocate and a group of her staff travelled to Victoria, British Columbia to participate in the Biennial Staff Training Conference hosted by British Columbia's Representative for Children and Youth for Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates (CCCYA) offices. The conference was a great opportunity to connect with our national counterparts and discuss similar issues and strategies for advocacy. The ACY is looking forward to hosting the next CCCYA Biennial Staff Training Conference in September 2015.



ACY staff - Biennial Staff Training Conference, Victoria, BC

## 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

### Article 42- The Right to Know Your Rights

Article 42 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: "States parties undertake to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known, by appropriate and active means, to adults and children alike."

The Committee on the Rights of the Child understands that Rights are of little use to people unless they are aware of them. We all must be "active" in our efforts to educate the public about children's rights.

### Why Teach Children about their Rights?

1. Build social skills – Education about rights helps children understand the importance of treating people equally and protecting the rights of others.
2. Motivate future learning – Helping children realize how fortunate they are to have the right to be educated leads to an understanding about the significance of life-long learning.
3. Creates safer schools and playgrounds – By providing children with the opportunity to model their rights and responsibilities we may reduce exclusion and bullying.
4. Children know their rights – Children gain an appreciation of rights and begin to view their lives from a global perspective.
5. Empower children to become active citizens – Teaching children about the importance of defending human rights builds a generation that is socially responsible.

*"When you know better you do better." ~ Maya Angelou*

### Knowledge is Power

Unscramble the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to the corresponding numbered cells below the clue words to reveal the hidden message.

OIPTNCOERT	<input type="text"/>												
EYUTAIQL	<input type="text"/>												
PCSERTE	<input type="text"/>												
MENA	<input type="text"/>												
YDTENTII	<input type="text"/>												
LIYFAM	<input type="text"/>												
DMREEFO	<input type="text"/>												
PYICRVA	<input type="text"/>												
TIOFANNIROM	<input type="text"/>												
CNLUSNIIO	<input type="text"/>												
TIODUECAN	<input type="text"/>												
LATHEH	<input type="text"/>												
LAYP	<input type="text"/>												
<b>K</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>W</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>G</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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