

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

