**2015 Child Rights Award Winners**

**Children’s Rights Champion: Dr. Aurelia Di Santo**

Dr. Aurelia Di Santo of Ryerson University has championed children’s rights in the field of early childhood education through research with young children, applying and teaching children’s rights in the early years, mentoring other educators, and developing rights-based curricula for young children, such as the Early Learning for Every Child Today (ELECT) curriculum. Effective ways to teach young children about their rights and give them voice in early childhood programming and research, a focus of her work, is a major contribution to the promotion and practice of children’s rights.

**Children's Rights Trailblazer: Connect 4 Kids**

The Connect 4 Kids Community Planning Table of the Lonsdale Creek Daycare Centre Society in North Vancouver developed innovative and engaging ways to sensitize children and a variety of community actors about the importance of children’s rights and how everyone has a role in respecting and implementing them. Through their persistent and dedicated focus, children in their care participate in and lead community and on-line training programs. Their work is an inspiration for other community service and early childhood organizations.

**Children's Rights Supporter: Marie Christian**

Marie Christian of Winnipeg, Manitoba demonstrates tireless persistence to advance the rights of children through participatory workshops with young people and community groups and modelling rights respecting behavior in her work with vulnerable children. Young people testify to Marie’s impact on their lives through her leadership in the Speaking Rights program of Equitas and the Voices program of Manitoba’s Youth in Care Network. Her years of service are an example of the difference one person can make to improve the lives and respect for the rights of many young people.

**Youth Voice Award: Youth Leaders, Red Cross Bullying Prevention Program**

The network of 1821 high school students who facilitate the Red Cross Bullying Prevention Program in schools across the country demonstrate how young people are using their voices to inform and transform the culture in their schools and communities in a rights respecting way. Trained youth leaders help younger students develop strategies they can use as bystanders to prevent bullying and model rights-respecting behavior on school grounds. The scope and reach of the Red Cross Respect Ed Bullying Prevention program demonstrates how an organization can engage young Canadians across provincial borders to improve the context in which they and their peers grow up.