

## **Children's Rights in Canada: Be Part of the 2018 – 2020 Review**

Implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Canada would benefit the children you serve and other children across this country. The Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children wants to work with you to achieve that goal.

We can use the official review process to raise the profile of issues that matter to you! Together, we can make gains for children in Canada, as well as reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Change needs to come in Canada in order to achieve our common goals. We ask you to consider being part of this process, which could align with your own strategic plans.

### **The Process in Brief**

#### **September, 2018: Before release of Canada's official report**

- Begin preparations by gathering evidence about the situation of children you serve.
- Identify recommendations from the last review that relate to your work.
- Discuss what actions you might recommend to address the issues you identify.

#### **September, 2018: After release of Canada's official report (Date TBC)**

- Compare what the report says with your knowledge and experience.
- Develop response to portions of the report that relate to your work.

#### **Fall, 2018: Raise the profile of children's rights and your issues in Canada**

- Foster discussion in Canada, in cooperation with the Coalition.
- Share the report and your analysis and recommendations in your communications with your members and relevant decision-makers.
- Share your analysis with others through the Coalition and check what others are saying.

#### **November 21-22, 2018: National Child Day**

- Consider attending a Coalition conference in Ottawa that will focus on several aspects of children's rights in Canada, to learn from others and share your issues with others.
- If you cannot attend, find other ways to use National Child Day, November 20, to draw attention to children's rights in Canada and your issues.

#### **Sometime in 2019 – 2020: Hearings before UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**

- Submit an alternative report separately or with others, through the Coalition.
- Some may choose to participate in person in Geneva.
- More details about the process will be available through the Coalition.

#### **Follow-up after Canada receives report from UN Committee**

- Follow-up in Canada is critical to make progress.

**This is a brief overview, which will be updated as the process continues.**

For more detailed information, see resources published by Child Rights Connect, an NGO network that assists in the UN process: <http://www.childrightsconnect.org/>

## **THE CCRC IS HERE TO HELP**

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- Help you identify recommendations from the last review that relate to your work.
- Provide information on each step of the process and how you can be part of it.
- Post your report or add your information to a joint report to raise the profile of your issues.
- Be a go-to resource for analysis based on the Convention and networks in Canada.

### **How the Pieces Fit Together**

The CCRC will prepare an umbrella report that addresses general principles, measures to implement all rights, links between specific reports, and gaps. Groups can choose to prepare individual reports, work with a thematic group, or provide information for the CCRC to use in its reports.

### **Content: Information, Analysis and Recommendations**

- Analysis of the situation of children, drawing on your experience
- Views of children with whom you work on how their rights are fulfilled in Canada
- Information related to actions taken on recommendations from the last review
- Gaps in information that you can fill, after the official government report is released
- Comments on the government's official report
- Recommendations to address issues that relate your work to the Convention

### **Fitting your issues into the review process**

We need analysis of specific issues and broad approaches. Organizing your information to fit with the way the UN organizes its review will help, if you wish to submit your report directly to the UN Committee. For an outline of the clusters of issues used in UN reports, you can use a guide prepared by Child Rights Connect: [http://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/EN\\_GuidetoCRCReportingCycle\\_ChildRightsConnect\\_2014.pdf](http://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/EN_GuidetoCRCReportingCycle_ChildRightsConnect_2014.pdf)

### **More Information**

Contact the CCRC at [info@rightsofchildren.ca](mailto:info@rightsofchildren.ca) or [kathyvandergrift@rogers.com](mailto:kathyvandergrift@rogers.com).

Check the CCRC website for resources on children's rights in Canada and updates on the review: [www.rightsofchildren.ca](http://www.rightsofchildren.ca).

Resources about the UN Process at [www.childrightsconnect.org](http://www.childrightsconnect.org)

Learn more about children's rights through the Child Rights Information Network: [www.crin.org](http://www.crin.org).