



Canadian Coalition
for the Rights of Children
Coalition canadienne
pour les droits des enfants

Issue 5, November 2009

Newsletter

20th Anniversary Special Event: November 18, 2009

Tabaret Hall
University of Ottawa Campus
Ottawa, Ontario

- 1:00 p.m. **Canada and the Convention: Strategy Discussion for Members and Friends**
Short Formal CCRC Business Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. **Youth on Youth Participation: Discussion with Young People**
- 4:30 p.m. **20 Years of Children's Rights: How Are We Doing?**
Ms. Gerison Lansdown: International Progress and Challenges
Mr. Bernard Richard: Using the Convention for Canada's Children
Mr. Irwin Elman: Provincial Advocacy for Children
- 6:00 p.m. **MP Marc Garneau, former astronaut, will assist in presenting the Child Rights Awards, and speak about his bill to establish a National Children's Commissioner**

RSVP: Please confirm your attendance with
Marjan Lahuis at mlahuis@unicef.ca

Children's Rights and Omar Khadr in the Supreme Court of Canada

The CCRC will intervene before the Supreme Court of Canada on Friday, November 13, to focus on the rights of children in the Omar Khadr appeal. Our objective is to increase the recognition of the *Convention* in the interpretation of *Charter* rights for children.

Thanks to Justice for Children and Youth for partnering on this initiative. A copy of the written argument is posted on our website.

Implementation of the *Convention* in Canada

Canada's third report was due in January, but is not yet available for public discussion.

While we wait for the report, the CCRC will post an overview of the issues relating to Canada's implementation of the *Convention*. It will be available next week on our website.

Children's Rights on Provincial Agendas

In **BC**, a report on child labour highlighted a significant increase in the number of work-related injuries of children since 2003, when the provincial law was relaxed to allow employment of 12 – 14 year-olds. Of particular significance is a 10-fold increase in injuries of children under the age of 14. The report calls for a minimum, national work-start standard to ensure equitable treatment of all young people in Canada. The report is available on First Call BC's website at www.firstcallbc.org.

In **Ontario**, the rights of children will have a special focus in the legislature on November 19, in honour of National Child Day on November 20.

In **Quebec**, the International Bureau of Children's Rights released a book on implementation of the Convention in Quebec. For more information, visit www.ibcr.org.

Across **Canada**, CCRC members are involved in special events in honour of National Child Day on November 20. Join where you can to show your support for children's rights.

Our Board Members

Kathy Vandergrift, Chairperson
Zuhy Saheed, Canadian Association for Community Living, Secretary
Tara Collins, Landon Pearson Child Rights Resource Center, Treasurer
Katherine Covell, Children's Rights Center, Cape Breton University
Lisa Wolff, UNICEF Canada
Sara Austin, World Vision Canada
Sarah Stevenson, Plan Canada
Samira Ahmed, Student, University of Ottawa
Carole Carpenter, Child Studies Program, York University
Nadja Pollaert, International Bureau for Children's Rights
Sarah Chandler, Child Rights Consultant
Emily Chan, Justice for Children and Youth

For more information about the Coalition visit our website:
www.rightsofchildren.ca