

National Child Day

National Child Day is celebrated each year on November 20th. This marks the day on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the *Declaration of the Rights of the Child* in 1959 and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* in 1989. The Convention spells out the basic human rights to which all children under the age of 18 are entitled.

In 1993, the Government of Canada enacted legislation to designate November 20th of each year as a national day of the child in order to promote an awareness of the Convention in Canada.

The Public Health Agency of Canada provides leadership for National Child Day through the coordination of federal government activities and the dissemination of educational and promotional materials on child rights to schools, community groups, families and others who work with children across the country.

Previous National Child Day activities have focused on specific rights such as the Right to Protection from Sexual Exploitation (2008); the Right to be Active (2007); the Right to be Heard (2006); and the Right to Play (2005). Earlier activities focused on the launch of Canada's national plan of action for children, *A Canada Fit for Children* (2004); the importance of communities (2003); and what 'A World Fit for Children' should look like (2002).

The overall objectives of National Child Day are to pay tribute to Canada's commitment to children outlined in the Convention and *A Canada Fit for Children*; promote children's initiatives across the country; and encourage child-related organizations to raise awareness of child rights.

Additional Information on National Child Day can be found at the following link: <http://www.childday.gc.ca>

