

# **SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF B.C.**

**551 – 409 Granville Street, Vancouver, V6C 1T2**

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November 1, 2004

Dear Mayor/Local Authority;

The Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY) is a non profit organization whose mandate is to support the well being of all children in British Columbia. Promoting the participation of young people as citizens in our communities is an integral part of our mission.

We are writing once again to encourage you to participate in National Child Day on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004 by officially proclaiming “Child Day” in your community. This day commemorates commitments made by Canada’s governments to children through ratification of the UN Declaration of Child Rights in 1959 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991.

The theme for National Child Day 2003 is “*A Canada Fit for Children*”. SCY recognizes the significant roles and responsibilities that local governments play in making communities better places to live for young people – through sports and recreation facilities and services, educational programs, and other initiatives that involve children and youth and connect them to their neighborhoods.

The strong connection between local governments and the well being of young people was underscored at the UN Special Session on Children, held in May 2002. This session included delegates from 190 countries, including Canada, who committed to national action plans for children according to priorities documented in “*A World Fit for Children*”. *During that session, Mayors as Spokespersons for Children’s Rights called on local authorities all over the world to promote child friendly communities, the participation of children and youth at the municipal level, and to support the global efforts of UNICEF and local non governmental organizations to achieve these objectives (see backgrounder and attachments).*

We are providing you with a sample Child Day proclamation. This is an important opportunity for you to voice your commitment to children and youth, to recognize the important role of local governments as advocates for the well being of children and youth, and to recognize their caregivers, and other individuals and organizations who support them, and to join with other municipal leaders across Canada in doing so. This proclamation, or a variation of it, can be read at your council meetings, at a community event or other appropriate occasion on or about November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

Thank you for playing a part in this important national celebration. If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact Mary Clare Zak, Executive Director for SCY, at 604 433 4180 or by email at mc@scyofbc.org

Yours truly,

Joe Rosen – President, SCY