Breaking new ground in child and youth advocacy

Youth with disabilities overrepresented in the youth criminal justice system

A partnership involving the Coalition for Kids, the Child and Youth Advocate for the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Foundation is supporting a city wide initiative that asks: How are children and youth in Vancouver faring? Are their Convention rights being upheld? Where there are gaps, how can they best be met? A workshop series involving youth, children, parents, and service providers and a cross section of Vancouver’s diverse populations will examine these questions and present results at a National Child Day conference in November 2005.

The first such initiative of its kind in Canada, the process builds on the development of a monitoring tool kit of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children. Our goal is to establish an ongoing monitoring processes, a rights based framework for service delivery, and to expand this initiatives to other parts of BC and Canada.

Connecting

SCY continues to bring people together around issues affecting children & youth, responds to hundreds of requests for information and publications on children’s rights from a variety of sources throughout BC, across Canada, and around the globe. Our expanded membership base stretches from northern BC to the African continent, attesting to the local and global nature of our work. Vocalpoint, SCY’s newsletter, renaming it Vocalpoint. Our initial issuedealt with child welfare in B.C. While SCY has renewed and changed the format for the Society’s newsletter, renaming it Vocalpoint. Our initial issue dealt with child welfare in B.C. While SCY has continually spoken out on this issue over the years, the publication of this newsletter felt like a return to our roots. We are particularly pleased with the eminence of the contributors, the quality of the work, the importance of the messages, and the capacity of the newsletter to create new relationships for SCY while reaching out to diverse audiences. Upcoming issues specific to Aboriginal, immigrant and refugee children attest to this fact.

SCY continues to focus on children and youth who may be excluded or systemically disadvantaged in a variety of ways. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child continues to be the basis for this work. As you will read in this annual report, it has been another challenging and rewarding year for our organization and with your support, we have much to look forward to. Thank you very much to all of our members, to our volunteers who contribute so much to the work of SCY, and to our Executive Director Mary Clare Zak for her continued commitment and hard work.

Joe Rosen

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Making middle childhood matter

While we are increasingly aware of the benefits of youth participating in decisions affecting them, there is less awareness of the benefits of involving younger age groups. With developmentally appropriate means of participation these benefits may include improved relationships with adults, increased confidence, and overall better outcomes. Over the past year, the United Way of the Lower Mainland roundtable on school aged children provided a unique opportunity for stakeholders to explore issues of school aged children and what contributes to their healthy development. Through our Child and Youth Friendly Communities Program and commitment to children’s rights, SCY will work with our partners to identify ways to ensure that the voices of ‘the middle years’ count.

Mary Clare Zak
Be an advocate for children and youth. Here are some ways.

1. Become a member
   - Renew my membership

As a member I will receive the Vocalpoint Newsletter and SCY member updates, 20% discount on all SCY publications, and information on issues, initiatives, and events.

Annual membership fee
   - $10 individual
   - $25 organization

2. Make a tax deductible donation
   - Here is my donation

   - $25
   - $50
   - $100
   - I prefer to give $________

3. Volunteer
   - Participate in one of our committees
     - Rights Awareness
     - Child and Youth Friendly Communities
     - Communications
     - Fund Raising and Membership
   - Join the Board of Directors

I want
   - To contribute to SCY’s endowment with the Vancouver Foundation. If so, we will contact you.
   - More information on how to make a charitable bequest.
   - To find out about volunteer opportunities at SCY

*Donations and fees can be received by cash or cheque only.

The Society for Children and Youth of BC works with a variety of funders, networks and individuals, all of whom provide valuable support and services. We appreciate all of our volunteers and associated organizations for their hard work and commitment.

**SCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Joe Rosen - President
Gary Manson - Vice President and Child and Youth Friendly Communities Committee Chair
Sandra Searth - Vice President and Rights Awareness Committee Co-Chair
Elinor Ames - Past President
Chris Reid - Treasurer and Chair, Fundraising and Membership Committee Chair
Frances Grunberg - Executive Member and Rights Awareness Committee Co-Chair

**MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Debbie Anderson
Lise Beaucchesne
Dana Brynelsen
Natalie Clark
Cherie Enns

**HONOURARY OFFICERS**

Tom Berger
Basil Robinson
Flora MacLeod

**INDIVIDUALS & ORGANIZATIONS WHO GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED TIME & EXPERTISE TO SCY**

Alana Kappel, Save the Children Canada • Angela Clancy, Family Support Institute • Cathie Camille, Federation of Invisible Disabilities • Cecelia Van Egmond, Department of Canadian Heritage • Cindy Blackstock, Caring for First Nations Families and Children Society • Tara Ashkalala • Elaine Isaac • Jack Boomer • JoAnne Dillabough, Faculty of Education, University of BC • Lisa Pedrin & Jan Sippel, Vancouver School Board • Senator Landon Pearson • Ralph Hembruff, Boys and Girls Clubs of BC • Sharon Van Tongeren Harvey • Sue Khazaie • Robin Pike • Lex Reynolds • Desiree Satter • Lisa Sterling • Richard Sullivan • Mike White

**SCY STAFF AND CONTRACTORS**

Mary Clare Zak - Executive Director
Marion Wong - Program Administration
Patty Ginn - Memberships and Publications

**CHILD & YOUTH FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM**

Melanie Clark & Bob Yates

**RIGHTS AWARENESS PROGRAM**

Jorge Salazar, Susan Kim

**FUNDING AGENCIES, NETWORKS AND VOLUNTEERS**

Society for Children and Youth of BC, a multidisciplinary forum for exchange and action

**SUPPORT SCY**

Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children • Law Foundation of BC • Ministry of Solicitor General and Public Safety • Vancouver Foundation • Canadian Business for Social Responsibility • Child and Youth Officer for BC

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