

SHINING A LIGHT ON ADVOCACY



2015/2016 ANNUAL REPORT

YUKON CHILD & YOUTH ADVOCATE OFFICE



WHAT CAN THE ADVOCATE OFFICE DO FOR ME?



LISTEN TO YOU



ADVISE YOU OF YOUR RIGHTS



PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION



ASSIST YOU TO ACCESS SERVICES

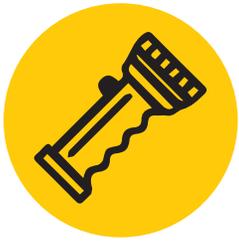


SUPPORT YOU



CONNECT YOU WITH THE GOVERNMENT RESOURCES YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE





SHINING A LIGHT ON ADVOCACY

I was officially sworn into the position of Child and Youth Advocate on May 1, 2015, after being selected by an all-party committee. In accordance with Section 24 of the Yukon's *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, this report describes the activities of the office for the period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

As we complete the sixth year of operation, the Yukon Child Advocate Office (YCAO) is still very much evolving. Along with providing individual advocacy for an increasing number of Yukon children and youth, we have developed a framework for systemic analysis and refined the operations of the office.

This report will highlight the work of the office over the last year. It will illustrate the types of issues children and youth have brought to our attention and will feature a systemic spotlight about out-of-territory treatment for young people. Throughout this report, we will shine a light on the rights of children how to promote their best interests. In accordance with the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, we take into account the provisions of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)*; the 42 Articles will be woven throughout the report.

Tina, Bengie and I have spent much of the last year reviewing the development of the office with curiosity and optimistic criticism. We have clarified what works, explored the gaps, and developed a strategic vision to address the areas that require further development. We have reviewed policy development to date and have collectively advanced our standards for our work. We are illuminating the role of our office by grounding our work in our legislation.

In the first 5 years, the number of YCAO referrals was fairly low. This was not surprising to me given it was a new office and many people did not fully understand what the office can do. What was surprising to me, however, was the fear that some service providers and caregivers expressed about speaking with us. I quickly recognized that in order to build a trusting



Photo: archbould.com

DID YOU KNOW?
YCAO attempts to meet all children and youth referred to the office unless there is a compelling reason not to do so.



Photo: YG

relationship with the designated services, public education and communication are necessary.

The first major event of the YCAO in 2015-16 was a “meet the advocate” event at the park. We followed this up with numerous meetings with Yukon Government employees, teams, managers and leaders. YCAO continues its positive relationship with many of Yukon’s First Nation governments and communities. Pursuant to the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, YCAO contacts the First Nation when providing advocacy for their citizens. We regularly attend Health Commission meetings at Council for Yukon First Nations. A large portion of referrals to YCAO continue to be First Nation children. This may be a reflection of the over-representation of aboriginal children in government systems and the need for their rights and interests to be considered in the services being offered.

In the 2015 Annual report - first five year review, I commented on themes that required further attention – these included, youth transitioning from care, aboriginal child welfare, and child and youth mental health. These large issues remain priorities for me. We are also paying attention to academic achievement in rural schools, the experiences of young people involved in the youth justice system, and the experiences of

children living in out of home placements, particularly those living with extended family.

We have found the connection to other Child Advocates across the country to be valuable for our small three person office and have been actively involved with the Canadian Council for Child and Youth Advocates. Furthermore, we met with a representative from the BC office and I visited the Advocate offices in Alberta and Saskatchewan and reviewed their operations to observe what works in their jurisdictions.

My hope for the next five years is that service providers do more to consider the unique views and participation rights of young people in the decisions being made. When children’s rights are fully considered, and adults give a voice to the views of children and youth, anything is possible. It’s time to turn the light on; keep children’s rights in plain view.

Annette King,
Executive Director



DID YOU KNOW?

74% of individual advocacy files in 2015-16 have been First Nations children.



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Who We Are

Child and Youth Advocate
Annette King

Deputy Child and Youth Advocate
Bengie Clethero

Office Administrator
Tina Dickson

(See complete bios at www.ycao.ca)

What We Do

YCAO will support, assist, inform and advise children and youth with respect to Yukon Government services including:

- Provide information and advice related to how to effectively access Yukon Government services and any process for review of decisions respecting the service.
- Work with the child or youth to ensure that their views and preferences are heard and considered.
- Promote the rights and interests of the child or youth to be safe, healthy, educated and heard.

How We Do It?

Based on the Advocate's initial assessment our role may include providing advice, coaching on

effective self-advocacy, requesting and/or attending planning meetings and if required, requesting records from designated services for the purposes of advocating directly on behalf of the child or youth.

Anyone can contact YCAO on behalf of a child or youth.

Children and youth are encouraged to contact YCAO (when possible) on their own or with someone's assistance.

What The Advocate's Office Does Not Do

- Influence or override decisions.
- Provide child protection services, financial assistance or counselling.
- Speak for children and youth in a court of law.
- Take actions which interfere with a tribunal or court process.
- Represent children and youth in custody matters.
- Change custody and access arrangements.



Photo: Bengie Clethero

WHO CAN MAKE A REFERRAL?

YCAO will take referrals from a child or youth or any person interested in the well-being of the child or youth, such as a family member, youth worker, educator or community member.

CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE ACT

Section 27 of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act* states that “a person must not discharge, suspend, discipline, penalize or otherwise discriminate against another person because the other person has given information to the Advocate or has otherwise assisted the Advocate”.

Confidentiality

All YCAO staff have sworn an oath to maintain confidentiality in respect of all matters that come to their knowledge in the exercise of powers and the performance of functions and duties under the Act. This means that the Advocate and all other staff must not divulge to anyone information on confidential matters regarding their responsibilities related to their legislatively mandated duties and functions. The Advocate must ensure that all information in their

control and custody is secure and appropriately protected.

In addition, the YCAO staff must identify any matters where a conflict of interest could be perceived. Any complaints or concerns about the activities of YCAO should be brought to the Child and Youth Advocate.





SHINING A LIGHT ON CHILD RIGHTS

"CHILD RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS, OR BASIC STANDARDS NECESSARY FOR SURVIVAL AND HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS TO LIVE WITH FREEDOM AND DIGNITY. IT IS BECAUSE OF INHERENT NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH THAT SPECIFIC RIGHTS ARE EXPRESSED WITHIN THE *UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD*. THESE CHILD RIGHTS CAN BE CATEGORIZED AS *PROTECTION* FROM HARM SUCH AS ABUSE, HARMFUL SUBSTANCES, AND EXPLOITATION; *PROVISION* OF RESOURCES FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD, SAFE SHELTER, CLEAN WATER, HEALTH CARE, AND BASIC EDUCATION; AND *PARTICIPATION* BY EXERCISING RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES SUCH AS TAKING PART IN DECISION MAKING AND SPEAKING UP ON MATTERS THAT DIRECTLY AFFECT THEM. WHILE THE CONVENTION AFFIRMS THAT PARENTS HAVE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION, GOVERNMENTS AT ALL LEVELS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVISION AND PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS. CANADA TOOK A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARDS IN THE WAY IT VALUES AND RESPECTS CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS WELL AS THEIR RIGHTS WITH RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION, AND REALIZING ITS SPIRIT IN PRACTICE IS AN ONGOING RESPONSIBILITY."

— DR. ELLEN MURRAY, PHD; FACULTY, MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY; CALGARY, ALBERTA



Photo: Bengie Clethero

The Selkirk Spirit Dancers.



CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Young people frequently tell us they would like more cultural connections.

UNCRC Article 31

Children have the right to relax and play, and to join a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities.



YCAO has worked to build and refine our knowledge about child and youth human rights and to provide education and awareness about the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* to children and youth and those who work with them.

The light is now on, children's rights are visible.

Bengie attended the International Summer Course on the Rights of the Child hosted by the University of Moncton. The 2015 theme was *mental health of children and adolescents*.

Bengie and Annette completed the Child and Youth Human Rights Certificate Program through Mount Royal University.

Annette and Bengie completed a one-day training by UNICEF Canada on how to conduct Child Rights Impact Assessments.

What is a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA)?

Children are 16% of the population of Canada. A substantial number of decisions affect children directly and indirectly yet children have a limited voice in government. The CRIA is a tool and process which involves a formal structured review of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* to assess the effects of policies, laws and decisions on the rights of children and youth and provides an opportunity to predict, monitor, avoid or mitigate negative impacts.

For more information about the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, go to www.unicef.org/crc



Artwork: Cassidy Cairns



PUBLIC EDUCATION, OUTREACH, EVENTS

YCAO re-established our working relationship with Duu Chuu Management to refine and deliver the Child Rights Workshop. YCAO partnered with Yukon Government– Regional Social Services and First Nation Health Departments to offer a two-day workshop in communities for service providers (First Nation and Yukon Governments) as well as shorter workshops for young people.

The workshop objectives are to:

- Learn about the roles and responsibilities of the Child and Youth Advocate Office.
- Increase understanding of Child/Youth Human Rights
- Learn how the *Child and Family Services Act* supports collaborations between Yukon Government social workers and First Nation representatives when protecting children.
- Discuss the 94 Calls to Action from the Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission and support paths toward reconciliation.
- Develop awareness of community resources to create an action plan and a safety net for children/youth.

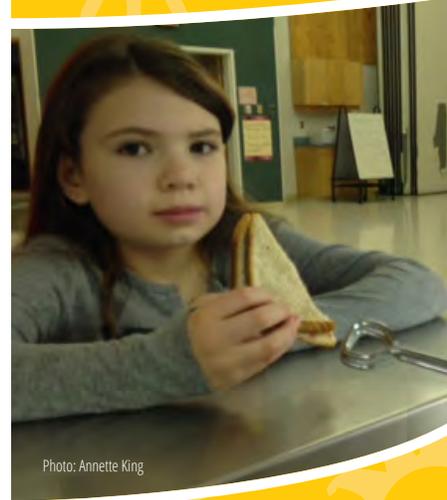


Photo: Annette King

YCAO volunteered at a breakfast for learning program.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

UNCRC Article 24

Children have a right to health care, clean water, nutritional food and a clean and safe environment.

UNCRC Article 27

Children have a right to an adequate standard of living; governments should help families and guardians who cannot afford to provide this, especially for food, clothing and housing.

Please contact YCAO for more information or to arrange a workshop for your community or group.

Workshops for Youth

- Dawson Youth Shelter
January 2016
- JV Clarke School
February 2016
- Mental Health Awareness Week forum – Porter Creek School
February 2016
- Watson Lake High School
March 2016

Workshops for Service Providers

- Child Rights and Advocacy Workshop in partnership with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and Regional Services
October 2015
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Human Rights Commission
December 2015
- Nacho Nyak Dun Health Conference
February 2016

Promotional Events

- Victims of Crime Awareness Week
April 2015
- Meet the Advocate at the park
May 2015
- CYFN General Assembly – Minto Landing
July 2015
- Teachers conference
August 2015
- Family Week
October 2015
- National Child Day Open House
November 2015



Photo: Bengie Clethero

Tim Cant and Mary Jane Jim, Duu Chuu Management, co-facilitators of community workshops on child rights.

Community Travel

Community travel continues to be a priority for the YCAO. In this reporting period, we travelled to:

- Haines Junction
- Dawson City
- Mayo
- Minto Landing

- Carmacks
- Carcross
- Watson Lake

Outreach Meetings

YCAO attended numerous meetings with Yukon Government, First Nation Governments and non-government agencies.

The following lists many of the meetings attended by YCAO:

YG Health and Social Services:

- Minister of Health and Social Services
- Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services
- Assistant Deputy Minister of Social Services

- Health and Social Services Executive Management team
- Director Family and Children's Services
- Family and Children's Services – Management team
- Family Group Conferencing team
- Youth Probation team meeting
- Youth Court
- Young Offenders Facility team meeting
- Youth Justice – Youth High Risk Treatment Program
- Youth Achievement Centre - Yukon Youth Outdoor Leadership Association
- Child and Adolescent Therapeutic Services team meeting
- Residential Youth Treatment Services (RYTS) – Management meeting
- RYTS Annex staff meeting
- Boys Receiving Home – visit
- Girls Receiving Home staff meeting and visit
- Tour of seven RYTS group homes
- Family Supports for Children with Disabilities – team meeting
- Alcohol and Drug Services Manager
- Mental Health Services Clinical Manager
- Placement Resource Committee
- Director of Policy and Regional Services
- Regional Services Manager
- Regional Services team meeting
- Regional Social Workers – Watson Lake, Haines Junction, Carmacks, Dawson City

Whitehorse General Hospital:

- First Nation Health Programs
- Clinical Social Worker
- Quality Assurance and Nurse Manager

Justice:

- Coroner
- Project Lynx Coordinator
- Community Safety Committee (lead by Justice and CYFN)

Women's Directorate:

- Minister Responsible for the Women's Directorate
- Director, Women's Directorate

Education:

- Minister of Education
- Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Schools
- Superintendents of Schools
- Numerous teachers and principals during school visits

Schools visited in 2015-16:

- Elijah Smith Elementary School
- Ghuch Tla Community School
- Individual Learning Centre
- JV Clarke School
- Johnson Elementary School
- Kluane Lake School
- Nelnah Bessie John School
- Porter Creek Secondary School
- Riverfront School
- St. Elias Community School
- Tantalus School
- Takhini Elementary School
- Watson Lake Secondary School
- Young Offenders' Facility (Vanier Secondary School)

First Nation Governments:

- Champagne Aishihik First Nation – Health Director
- Trondek Hwech'in – Health Programs team meeting
- Council for Yukon First Nations – Health Commission
- Council for Yukon First Nations – Health and Social Director
- Kwanlin Dün First Nation – counsellor; health nurse; Justice programs; Jackson Lake Treatment Program

Non-Government Organizations:

- Youth Network
- BYTE Empowering Youth
- Skookum Jim Friendship Centre – Youth Shelter
- Child Development Centre – staff meeting
- Child Development Centre – Annual General Meeting
- Child Development Centre – Executive Director

Out-of-Territory visits:

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission Closing Ceremony, Ottawa, Ontario
- Moncton University Child Rights Training, Moncton, New Brunswick
- Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates Conference, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
- Ranch Ehrlo Society, Regina, Saskatchewan
- Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Edmonton, Alberta
- Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Photo: Bencie Clethero



CASE LOAD STATS



NUMBER OF CASES

Advocacy Files	103
Info/Referral Files	56
Systemic Files	2
Total Clients	161



INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY

New Clients	73
Carried Over	30
Total	103



COMMUNITIES

Whitehorse	80
Other	23
Total	103



REFERRAL SOURCES

Parent(s)	31
Family	28
Professional	17
Self	18
Other	9
Total	103

Individual Advocacy

Files are opened for children and youth who access YCAO for support, assistance, information or advice about accessing services, promoting their voice, promoting their rights and interests and finding resolutions to the advocacy issue.

Information and Referrals

Files are short term contacts where a concern is brought to YCAO and the staff provide information or referral to relevant programs to address the issue. Sometimes, the concern does not meet the mandate of YCAO; for example,

when a parent calls with concerns about a custody dispute, YCAO refers the parent to the Law Line or the Family Law Information Centre.

When YCAO receives a referral for a general concern for young people in Yukon, but does not identify a specific child or youth requiring advocacy, the concern is recorded as an Information and Referral file.

Please do not hesitate to call with your questions, we can help sort out which services may be most suitable for you.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

UNCRC Article 25

Children living in an out of home placement are entitled to have their living arrangements reviewed regularly to ensure they are in their best interest.



CHILDREN/YOUTH IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS

Living with Parent(s)	42
In Care (foster home/group home/Young Offenders Facility)	34
Living with Extended Family	21
Independent	6
Total	103

DESIGNATED SERVICES

Family & Children's Services	64
Youth Justice	5
Mental Health	6
Education	23
Other	5
Total	103





KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

UNCRC Article 12

Children have a right to express their view and have it considered in all matters affecting the child.

UNCRC Article 28

Children have a right to an education.

UNCRC Article 40

Children involved with the law are to be treated in a manner that respects their dignity and worth and promotes their human rights.



CASE SCENARIOS

Individual Advocacy – Youth Justice and Department of Education

Kale is 17 years old and has been involved with the Youth Justice system for the last four years with frequent short term sentences in secure custody. At the time of the referral to YCAO, Kale was serving a two-month sentence. Kale was concerned that there was not an opportunity to complete high school credits in custody and given the boredom, felt motivated to complete studies. The Advocate followed up with the Department of Education and discovered that Kale had not yet completed any credits toward graduation.

The Advocate shared these concerns with management at Young Offenders Facility (YOF) as well as Department of Education. There is a teacher and classroom at YOF but young people often do not achieve academic credits while in custody. Kale indicated youth are often the most stable while at YOF because they are sober, well-fed, well-rested and bored. As a result of this advocacy, the teacher assigned to YOF presented graduation options to all of the youth in custody

and prepared a curriculum which focused on academic achievement, with opportunities to write exams and complete credits. Kale ended up motivating other youth to get active in their education.

Individual Advocacy Scenario – Family and Children’s Services

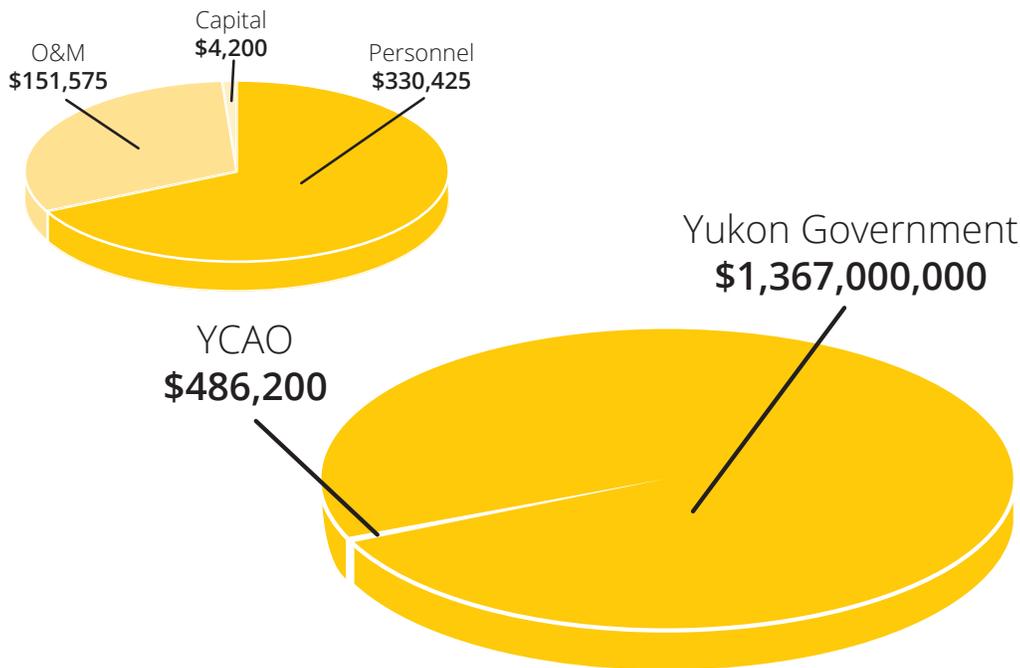
Jamie, Peyton, Quin and McKenzie were living in the care of the Director of Family and Children’s Services for two years. A Family Group Conference was scheduled to determine a long term placement for them. They were referred to the Advocate by their Aunt who was concerned that the children would not have an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. The Advocate met with the children in their community, met with social workers, family members and the Family Group Conference Coordinator. The Advocate clarified the unique view of each child and attended the Family Group Conference. At the conference, the Advocate presented information about the rights of children and supported the children to have their views heard and considered at the meeting.



FINANCIAL STATS

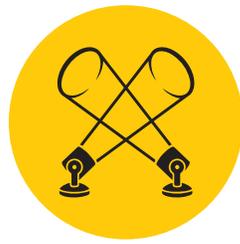
YCAO is an independent office of the Legislative Assembly of Yukon Government. The budget is approved annually by Member Services Board.

2015-16 Budget Expenditures



"IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT KIDS WANT TO GO BECAUSE IT CAN BE TRAUMATIZING FOR THE KIDS TO BE AWAY FROM THEIR LOVED ONES, FAMILY BECAUSE IT CAN BE EMOTIONAL FOR THEM"

— 15 YEAR OLD YOUTH AFTER OUT-OF-TERRITORY TREATMENT



SYSTEMIC SPOTLIGHT

The Child and Youth Advocate Act, Section 12(1) states:

If, in the course of performing the individual advocacy functions on behalf of a child or youth under section 11 (primary role), the Advocate becomes aware of a policy or systemic issue in respect of the designated service that raises a substantial question of public interest, the Advocate may review and provide advice in respect of the issue to the department, First Nation service authority or school board that is providing the designated service.

What is a systemic analysis?

With six years of advocating for children and youth, YCAO is now able to identify trends; thus we are beginning to develop the systemic advocacy role in the office. In this reporting period, YCAO developed a systemic analysis framework to examine the issues and we reviewed two systemic issues using this framework – *Out-of-Territory Treatment and Academic Review in a Rural School*.

How do we do a systemic analysis?

In a systemic analysis, YCAO identifies the advocacy issue and assesses the issue as it relates to individual advocacy for specific children and youth. YCAO reviews

and considers the view of the children and youth as well as the rights and interests of the children and youth as they pertain to the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the related Yukon Government legislations. Then YCAO further explores the issue by identifying questions for research and sources of information. After analyzing the findings, YCAO presents recommendations to the designated service(s) and requests a response.

The Out-of-Territory Treatment analysis is the subject to our systemic spotlight for this annual report:

YCAO presented the following advocacy issues to the Department of Health and Social Services in August 2016.

Before treatment:

- Youth not being included in the decision to go for treatment
- Youth not knowing where they are going, what they can take, or the goals and expectations
- Youth feeling like others think they are crazy, broken or damaged
- Family was referred back and forth between Family and Children's Services and Mental Health Services

- Questions about who should pay for treatment
- Family and Children Services had nowhere to place child due to violent behaviour and substance abuse
- A delay in treatment due to contract issues with the treatment centre
- First Nation did not agree with sending the youth to treatment

During Treatment:

- Youth are not aware of any treatment goals or plan
- Youth frequently run away from the program for several days/weeks at a time and report sexualized violence
- Youth have alleged connection to gangs
- Youth do not know how to access family visits or plans to return home
- Treatment program discharges youth because they can't handle behaviours

- Social worker escorted youth only part way to Saskatchewan
- Treatment not connected to local therapeutic resources

After Treatment:

- Youth experience difficulty with transition and reintegration
- Disruption in cultural connection and a sense of belonging to Yukon
- Wanting to return to previous group home placement but bed is unavailable
- Wanting to live with previous caregiver
- No discharge plan, early discharge due to behaviours
- Need for educational support
- Lack of collaboration of resources

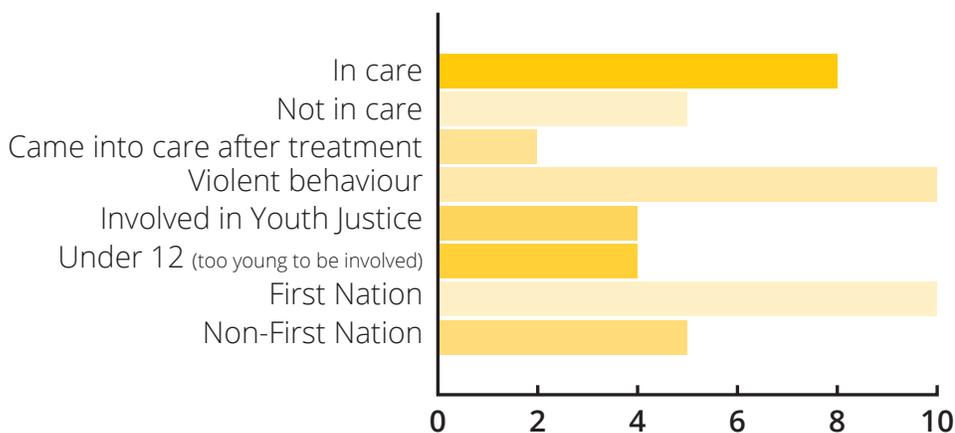
The children and youth sent out of the territory for assessment, treatment and placement presented with violence, self-harm and substance abuse problems. Health and

Social Services has stated that it is not the goal of the Department to send young people Out-of-Territory unless there are no local options.

YCAO recommendations to Health and Social Services:

- Encourage youth participation in treatment plans, especially Out-of-Territory referrals; involve children and youth in the decision in a way that supports their development and their capacity
- Provide developmentally and culturally appropriate family focused stabilization for individual needs of youth in Yukon
- Enhance preventative interventions such as increased in-home support for families
- Coordinate resources and monitor supports for children and youth with mental health problems or complex special needs
- Assessment and recognition of the history of residential schools and inter-generational child welfare experiences of children and families
- Continue to examine Out-of-Territory referrals, placements and reintegration back to Yukon; examine statistics as well as youth experiences

Systemic Analysis Cases



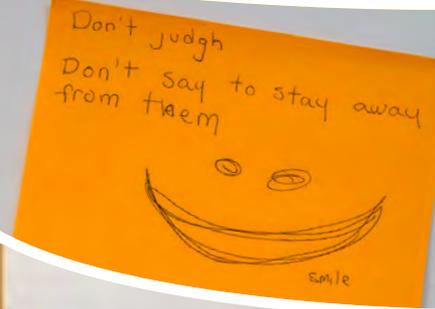


Photo: Bengie Clethero



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The Child and Youth Advocate Office works to promote the views of young people and encourages civic participation from youth. We celebrate activities that create opportunities for young people to share what they have to say or speak up for other young people.

Child and Youth Mental Health – What would you say?

At three youth events we asked young people “what would you say?” to adults about child and youth mental health.

The youth demonstrated acceptance and appreciation of diversity; youth do not feel like adults understand mental health

problems, they need more youth focused supports from the people they care about; they think that adults worry too much and think that they are “crazy”. Therefore, they find most adults difficult to talk to about mental health.

Ask me what
is going on

It's not me
Seeking attention.

If you tell
someone to stop
cutting, they get
worse and hide
it!

What Would You Say?

...to adults

about

child and youth
mental health?

Is your
child depressed?
Play a game
with them

Be important in
there life

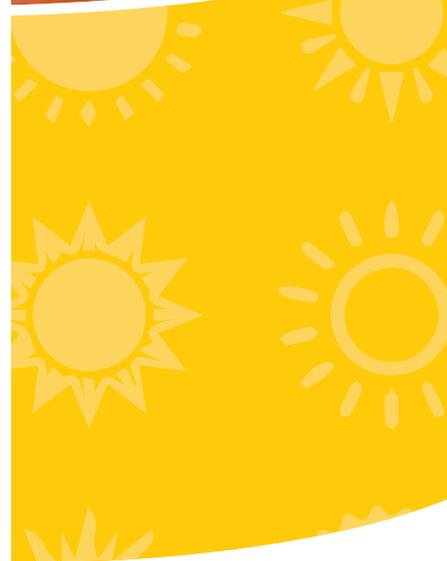
It's not a
shameful
thing

I don't WANT
to BE sent
away.

Photo: Mark Rutledge



Photo: Mark Rutledge



Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Youth Forum

In June 2015, the eleven Child and Youth Advocates across the country were invited to Ottawa to attend the closing ceremonies for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). It was an honour to be part of the event that celebrated culture, validated a painful part of Canadian history and inspired hope.

the Child (UNCRC). Canada signed the UNCRC in 1991. Children in residential schools often did not experience these rights.

Several of the *TRC 94 Calls to Action* align with the UNCRC by calling on Canadians to support:

- A child's rights within the child welfare system
- A child's right to education
- A child's right to health care
- A child's right to culture and language
- A child's right to freedom of expression

The 94 Calls to Action are not only about repairing a past. They are about making a better present and future for our children. The inter-generational effects continue to linger, for the survivors and their family members.

The TRC final report inspires Canadians toward the path to reconciliation through developing and maintaining respectful relationships and following through with concrete actions that demonstrate real societal change.

"RECONCILIATION IS ABOUT FORGING AND MAINTAINING RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS.

THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS."

— JUSTICE MURRAY SINCLAIR

The Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates submitted a *Declaration of Reconciliation* where we committed to continuing the work of reconciliation initiated by the TRC process.

YCAO recognizes that the TRC 94 Calls to Action promote the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of*

"WE ARE CALLING ON YOU TO OPEN UP YOUR MIND,
TO BE WILLING TO LEARN THESE STORIES, TO BE
WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT THESE THINGS HAPPENED.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE ARE CALLING ON YOU TO LINK ARMS
WITH US, THAT ALL CANADIANS INDIGENOUS OR NOT, YOUNG
OR OLD, FIRST-GENERATION OR TENTH-GENERATION, THAT WE
WORK TOGETHER TO HEAL AND SECURE A BETTER FUTURE.

WE NEED TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS."

— CHIEF WILTON LITTLECHILD

Artwork created during the YCAO community
workshop, October 2015.



Photo: Bengie Clethero



Photo: Bengie Clethero

"THE HEALING JOURNEY, AND THE PATH TO RECONCILIATION, INCLUDES THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH IN DEFINING THEIR OWN FUTURE. THIS IS A JOURNEY THAT MUST BE TAKEN BY ALL CANADIANS."
 — CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATES

The Ontario Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth is supporting young people from each province and territory to develop a national youth gathering recognizing the TRC and finding paths to reconciliation. It is an opportunity for First Nation, Aboriginal, Metis,

Inuit, newcomer/refugee and non-aboriginal Canadian youth to gather together in ways that previous generations have not.

For more information about the TRC, go to www.trc.ca or www.nctr.ca



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

UNCRC Article 39

Child victims have the right to have governments support in recovery and reintegration after abuse.



Photo: Bengie Clethero



10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

1. LEARN ABOUT THE *UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD* – GO TO WWW.UNICEF.ORG/CRC
2. LET CHILDREN PLAY
3. ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISIONS BEING MADE ABOUT THEM
4. PROTECT CHILDREN FROM DRUGS AND ALCOHOL
5. SUPPORT CHILDREN TO PRACTICE THEIR CULTURE AND LANGUAGE
6. KEEP CHILDREN SAFE
7. TAKE PART IN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN
8. ASK CHILDREN WHAT THEY THINK
9. TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS
10. CALL THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE OFFICE

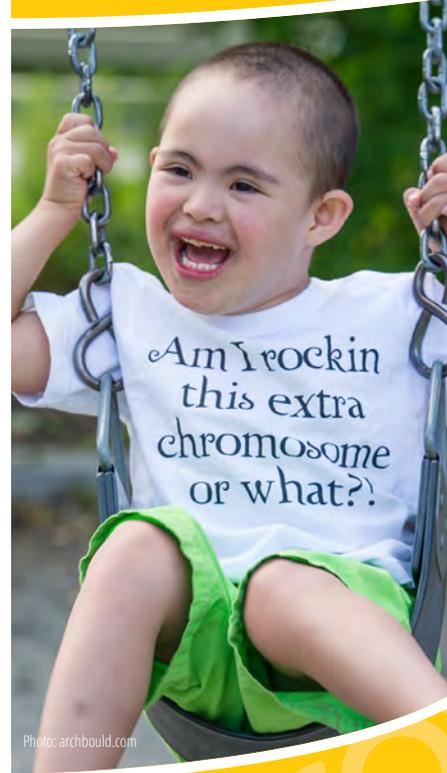


Photo: archbould.com



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

UNCRC Article 2

The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.



CONTACT US

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