



Child and Youth Advocate


Community Update

November 2011

Children's Rights Awareness Week 2011

November 18 - 25

www.gnb.ca/playmatters



Children's Rights Awareness Week



Picture by Daniel Cha, Grade 2,
Garden Creek Elementary School

Based on Article 31 of the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child*; **The Right to Rest, Leisure, Play, Recreation, Arts and Culture**, the 4th annual *State of Child* Report will launch the inaugural **Children's Rights Awareness Week** in New Brunswick.

The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate has collaborated with community partners and organizations to roll out a variety of activities and events throughout the province that will promote and bring awareness to children's rights. *Children's Rights Awareness Week* will also showcase the integral role that our youth play as community leaders in New Brunswick.

National Child Day—November 20th

Each year on November 20th, Canadians from coast-to-coast celebrate National Child Day in commemoration of the United Nations' adoption of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, on November 20, 1989.

- [Click here to view information on National Child Day](#)
- [Click here to view United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

National Child Day Poetry and Poster Celebration

In celebration of National Child Day, the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate invited District 1 & 18 students to participate in our first annual National Child Day Poetry and Poster Celebration, which will launch our inaugural **Children's Rights Awareness Week**.

The theme of this year's Poetry and Poster Celebration was **The Right to Rest, Leisure, Play, Recreation, Arts and Culture** taken from Article 31 of the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Students from kindergarten through grade three were invited to create a poster, while those from grade four through grade eight were asked to write a poem that illustrated the theme.

Selected poems will be presented by the students themselves at the 2011 *State of The Child*, Breakfast with the Premier, on November 18th. In addition, a selection of posters will be displayed at this event.



One poster was chosen as the image to use on all of our 2011 **Children's Rights Awareness Week** promotional items. The selected poster was drawn by Daniel Cha, a student in Mrs. Fortner's grade two class at Garden Creek Elementary School in Fredericton.

We hope to have more posters displayed on our Children's Rights Awareness Week website www.gnb.ca/playmatters in the coming weeks.

4th annual *State of the Child* report A Children's Rights and Wellbeing Framework

Breakfast with the Premier

On Friday, November 18th, the Child and Youth Advocate, in partnership with the New Brunswick Health Council will deliver the 4th annual *State of the Child* report and address. The report will be unveiled at a breakfast event with Premier David Alward on-hand to deliver the keynote address.

There will be a special opening performance from the Wulastukw Elementary School Drummers and poems read from our Poetry Celebration winners

This year's *State of the Child* report will focus on Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; The Right to Rest, Leisure, Play, Recreation, Arts and Culture.

The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate and the New Brunswick Health Council are proud to jointly release the 4th annual *State of the Child* report, a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Framework that offers a statistical analysis of the development, health, and well-being of our children and youth.

(Click on event poster for more details about our Breakfast with the Premier)



Children's Rights Awareness Week - Registered Events Contest

Registered Events Contest

You can help make **Children's Rights Awareness Week** a success!

As part of our week-long celebration, we ask that you plan or facilitate your own unique activity that celebrates a child's right to rest, leisure, play, recreation, arts and culture.

Host an event, plan an excursion, write a letter, develop a campaign! Let us know how you will promote, advocate and defend the rights and interests of New Brunswick children and youth.

Register your **Children's Rights Awareness Week** event here and we will gladly promote it on our website. Once registered, your name will be entered in a random draw to win great prizes, including *Children's Rights Awareness Week* performance shirts, retailer gift cards, and much more.

[Click here](#) to register your **Children's Rights Awareness Week** event.

Children's Rights Awareness Week Events

For a full list of **Children's Rights Awareness Week** events, visit www.gnb.ca/playmatters

Here are just a few:

Prince and Princess Day at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery (703 Queen St, Fredericton) - Saturday, November 19th — *Art making, treats, and a celebration of all things Royal.* For more information, click [here](#)

Speaking tour on The Importance of Sleep - Saint John Mercantile Centre (Harbour View Room), 55 Union St., 9am - 10am; Moncton Hospital (Room G1), 135 MacBeath Ave., 2pm - 3pm; Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation (auditorium), 800 Priestman St, Fredericton, 7pm – 8pm - Monday November 21st — *Developmental Pediatrician, Dr. Tara Kennedy, will give three public lectures on why sleep and rest are vital to a child's development.* For more information, click [here](#)

Panel presentation on The Importance of Play - Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Tues., Nov. 22nd, 7pm – 8pm — *Clinical child psychologists, Dr. Hilary Cartwright and Dr. Paul McDonnell, along with child psychiatrist, Dr. Malgorzata Relja discuss 'play' and its importance in the healthy development of children.* For more information, click [here](#)

Thom Swift in concert with the Sistema NB Children's Orchestra - Moncton High School, Wed., Nov. 23rd, 7pm - 8pm — *Evening of live music from multi-award-winning singer-songwriter, Thom Swift, and the Sistema NB Children's Orchestra.* For more information, click [here](#)

Pathways to Child and Youth Resiliency Workshop and Open House

- UNB President's Lounge in Alumni Memorial Building - Fri., Nov. 25th, 1pm - 3pm — *Organizations from around the province will give 5 minute presentations about unique programs that provide children and youth with leadership experience and growth opportunities.* For more information, click [here](#).

Random Acts of Play - BMO Field (under the bubble) UNB, Fredericton - 9am - 11am, Fri., Nov. 25th — *Student-athletes from UNB and STU will organize a "play day" in support of the Right To Play.* For more information, click [here](#)



Amanda Steeves (STU), Heather Ambery (UNB), Melissa Foster (UNB) and Rosalynn Aless (STU) share a moment of play with Christian Whalen.

Free Skates and Swims

In celebration of a child's right to rest, leisure, play, recreation, arts and culture, arenas and pools in municipalities around the province will provide free family skates and swims.

Families are encouraged to get out and "play"!

Take the opportunity to enjoy a free hour of swimming or skating at various locations across New Brunswick.

Please refer to the [Free Skate and Swim schedule](#) for details on times and locations.



If your municipality or organization can provide an hour of free swimming or skating, please email the Child and Youth Advocate at advocate-défenseur@gnb.ca

Thanks to all who have already helped make Children's Rights Awareness Week a success!

"Play Matters" T-Shirts

Children's Rights Awareness Week "Play Matters" performance T-Shirts

100% polyester

Lightweight and breathable

Not chemically treated

Royal blue

On the front: Children's Rights Awareness Week logo

On the back: ***Play Matters!...Jouer ça compte!***



*****Only \$12.00 each*****

Click [here](#) to order your very own "play matters" performance T-shirt and promote the child's right to rest, play, leisure, recreation, arts and culture, all year long!

We are YOUR Child and Youth Advocate. We want to hear from YOU!



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