

Children's Rights in Canada

All children in Canada under the age of 18 have rights regardless of age, ability, gender, culture, socio-economic status, or religion. The proper exercise of children's rights fosters respectful relationships between children and their peers, and between children and adults.

The following declarations provide a framework for government and other officials to give priority to the best interests of children. These declarations provide guidance when developing laws, policies, and services that protect children and promote their development.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989; Canada ratified the Convention in 1991. The Convention ensures that all children have the rights to a good start in life, and the means to reach their full potential. These rights are outlined in 54 articles and reframe children's basic needs as legal obligations that must be protected and asserted.

<http://www.unicef.ca/en/policy-advocacy-for-children/about-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child>

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides guidance for governments to ensure respect for the human rights of Indigenous peoples in regard to culture, identity, religion, language, health, education, and community. Canada became a full supporter, without qualification, of the Declaration in the spring of 2016. The Declaration protects the rights of the estimated 370 million Indigenous peoples across the globe, including the 1.4 million First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Canada.

http://indigenoukidsrightspath.ca/sites/default/files/documents/KnowYourRights_UN_Rights_Indig_Peoples.pdf



Additional resources:

Child Rights in the Community Context - www.landonpearson.ca/uploads/6/0/1/4/6014680/crcc2_-_english_-_layout_complete_-_final_copy.pdf

The Rights of First Nations Children in Canada - http://www.nccah-ccnsa.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/124/Rights_First_Nations_Children_EN_web.pdf



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