



May 17, 2022

Hon. Dennis King
Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker
MLA Sonny Gallant
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Dear Premier and Leaders of the Official Opposition and Third Party,

Re: Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates Media Statement concerning Canada's Hybrid Appearance before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on May 17 and 18, 2022

I am pleased to provide you with the attached Media Statement released today by the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates on the occasion of Canada's hybrid appearance before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child today and tomorrow. In my capacity as Child and Youth Advocate for Prince Edward Island, I am a member of the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates.

As you are aware, Canada is a signatory country to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) having ratified the international child rights treaty in December 1991. As a ratifying country, Canada must, in theory, report every five years to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child which is the United Nations body charged with monitoring compliance of those countries that have ratified the UNCRC. However, in reality, these reporting obligations are frequently delayed, as evidenced by Canada last reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child ten years ago in 2012.

As previously mentioned in my correspondence of April 26, 2022, Canada is appearing before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child today on May 17th and tomorrow on May 18th, 2022 for 2 hours each day (at 10 am Atlantic time) and the sessions are webcast live on <https://media.un.org/en/webtv> and archived in English for later viewing. In that same correspondence, I encouraged each of you to share this information with members of your respective caucuses and consider viewing these sessions, which are significant events occurring many years apart.

The attached Media Release calls on Canada "to present the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child with concrete action plans to move forward on key issues, many of which reflect past recommendations of the Committee, to better respect, promote and fulfill the rights of children in Canada..." Those issues are then listed by the Council in the attached Media Release.

While Canada formally reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the implementation of children's rights is a shared responsibility in this country. I would appreciate your caucuses considering how we, as a province, can encourage Canada to take a more active role in addressing these long-standing national children's rights issues and how we, as a province, can play our part in promoting and

protecting the human rights of all children and youth in this province. I anticipate that the release of the Committee's next set of Concluding Observations in a few months' time will present us with a further opportunity to examine what can be done together to implement the recommendations delivered to Canada that fall under provincial jurisdiction.

In closing, I would like to commend each of you for your political leadership in promoting and protecting the rights and well-being of PEI children and youth and in recognizing the importance of applying a child-rights lens to important decisions that affect the everyday lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,



Marvin M. Bernstein, B.A., J.D., LL.M. (ADR)
Child and Youth Advocate/PEI
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate