



October 2, 2026

Hon. Rob Lantz

Hon. Hal Perry

Matthew MacFarlane

P.O. Box 2000

Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

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

Re: 35th anniversary of Canada's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (13 December 2026) and National Child Day (20 November)

As the Child and Youth Advocate for Prince Edward Island I am writing to highlight important upcoming anniversaries for children's rights. These dates provide timely reminders of the commitments made by the Government of Canada and the Government of Prince Edward Island to promote and protect the rights of children and youth.

On December 13th, 1991, the Government of Canada ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), signifying our federal and provincial commitment to upholding the 42 substantive rights of children and youth. This year marks the 35th anniversary of this important date. The UNCRC is the most widely ratified Human Rights Treaty in history, demonstrating the importance of the rights of children and youth globally, nationally and provincially.

Additionally, National Child Day, 20th November, provides another opportunity for celebration, as the date marking the adoption of the UNCRC by the United Nations General Assembly, in 1989. In PEI, November 20th, 2026, marks the seventh anniversary of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act* unanimously passing third reading in the PEI Legislative Assembly, subsequently proclaimed in force on July 15th, 2020.

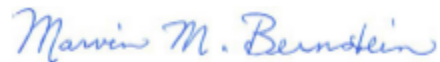
This year on National Child Day, youth members of the Child and Youth Advisory Committee (CYAC) of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA) are delighted to be welcomed to the gallery of the Legislature. CYAC members are resolute in their commitment to promoting the rights of Island children and youth.

On National Child Day 2023, the Office of the Premier issued a [press release](#), acknowledging the work of the OCYA in contributing to *"better policy, better decision-making, and more focus on the rights of children and youth in Prince Edward Island."* The Hon. Dennis King, Premier of PEI at that time, confirmed the government's commitment to advancing the rights of children and youth, highlighting the establishment of the International Human Rights Coordination Network (IHRN) in PEI, as a committee tasked with examining the provincial implementation of international rights obligations. The Premier also

committed to the exploration of the utilization of Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA) throughout government. I look forward to updates on both of these matters, while acknowledging the periodic opportunities extended to my Office to meet with senior government staff regarding aspects of CRIA implementation. In the case of the IHRN, a focus on action steps related to the implementation of children's human rights, as set out in both the UNCRC and in the UNCRC Committee's last set of Concluding Observations to Canada (June 23, 2022), would be appreciated.

PEI has the potential to be a leader in children's rights. The 35th anniversary of Canada's ratification of the UNCRC, and National Child Day are reminders of our collective commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of all Island children and youth. Our province can be proud of much of the work done to ensure the provision, protection and participation rights of children, as established in the UNCRC, are recognized. In this regard, I regularly witness the integrity and commitment of front-line service providers who demonstrate respect for children's rights and a desire to work in collaboration with my Office. To further amplify PEI as a province that prioritizes the safety, wellbeing and development of all children, I look forward to our continued collective work in raising the profile of children's rights in PEI.

Respectfully,



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