

The following is distributed on behalf of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate/PEI

PRESS RELEASE

Monday, June 14, 2021

For Immediate Release

Every Child has a Right to be Safe

“All PEI children and youth have a right to expect that they are protected from all forms of violence, including bullying, harassment, assault, targeting, or any form of emotional degradation of their identity. Recent actions cannot take us back decades where individuals were fearful of openly expressing their authentic gender identity.” stated Marv Bernstein, Child and Youth Advocate.

All adults across our Island have an accountability, including all school personnel such as Principals, Vice Principals, directors, teachers and support roles within education, to ensure that the best interests of all children and youth are upheld; that every child has a right to survival and optimal healthy development.

Children and youth have the right to freedom of expression, and to be safe in any learning environment to do so. Every child has a right to safely and whole-heartedly, celebrate their diversity, identity and gender orientation.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) speaks to both the right to an education as well as the aims of education for all children. This includes the provision to prepare to take part in society as a whole, as an informed and contributing citizen, whose diversity is fully respected.

The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate will not sit on the sidelines of this systemic issue.

HOW TO CONNECT

- 902-368-5630
- Toll free: 1-833-368-5630
- voiceforchildren@ocyapei.ca
- www.childandyouthadvocatepei.ca

Children and youth, and adults, do not need any person's permission or referral to connect with the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate. The name of any person contacting the Office is confidential. Children and youth have a right to talk to the Child and Youth Advocate privately.

Backgrounder

On July 15, 2020, Marv Bernstein was sworn in as an independent officer of the PEI Legislative Assembly as PEI's first independent Child and Youth Advocate. The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate officially opened on the same day.



MEDIA CONTACT

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