



7 Key Issues

Affecting Children and Youth
in Canada

APRIL 2011

Preamble

The attached research and policy overview helps frame 7 key issues that have profound effects on children and youth in Canada. Canada lacks a cohesive, up-to-date national strategy for children and youth and we believe that this is unacceptable, suggesting that Canada does not value our children and youth and slowing the development of integrated, proactive policies to protect our most vulnerable.

In a recent national survey of parents of young children by Invest in Kids, only 44% of respondents strongly agreed that Canada values its young children - 14% strongly disagreed! Such a strategy should address these 7 key issues that we have identified for discussion: Child poverty, youth justice, child care, mental health, Aboriginal children, refugee children, and violence against children and youth.

This paper is intended to provide an overview and will hopefully be a starting point for organizing further research and examining these issues in more detail. In considering these issues, it is also important to remember that it is society's current generation of children and youth that will need to support the growing numbers of Canada's ageing population in the future.

Comments and reaction to this issues paper are welcome, as we plan to continue this work with a view to creating a new policy framework for children and youth in Canada. Regardless of who forms the next federal government, we think this will be highly valuable to help inform the policy making process going forward after the election.

Also, feel free to use this paper in your organization and circulate widely to members and communities. To share your own thoughts and election issues and strategies please email: info@nacy.ca.

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Child Poverty

Although Canada is a developed country it still has an unconscionable number of children living in poverty. It is estimated that 1.2 million children – one out of every six children – is living in poverty in Canada (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). The situation for children in British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador is even worse, with up to 1 in 4 children living in poverty (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). The populations living in poverty that have the greatest need include Aboriginal families, immigrant and refugees, children with disabilities, children whose families have come apart, and children living on the streets (Government of Canada, 2004). According to the 2006 Report card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada, 27.7% of children with disabilities, 40% of Aboriginal children, 25% of children in First Nations communities and 40.4% of immigration children live in poverty (almost twice the national rate)" (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 148).

Youth are also increasingly at risk of poverty and homelessness. Nearly 18% of Canada's youth are poor (National Children's Alliance [NCA], 2005). Furthermore, the Public Health Agency of Canada estimated that 150,000 youth aged 15 to 24 are living on the streets in Canada every day (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 149). Youth unemployment rates and low status in the labour market contribute significantly to their high poverty rates (Dagnino, 2009). Youth unemployment is double the rate of the general population (Dagnino, 2009). The majority of youth living on the streets have not completed high school (Dagnino, 2009). Youth are one of the fastest growing subpopulations among Ontario's homeless (Dagnino, 2009). Mortality rates among homeless individuals are two to ten times higher than the general population (Dagnino, 2009).

There are severe consequences for children and youth living in poverty. Consequences can include but are not limited to poor development, social exclusion, mental health issues and problems learning (Government of Canada, 2004) (Dagnino, 2009). Living in poverty can strongly impede a young person's opportunity to acquire the skills, capacities, and confidence needed to reach their full potential (Government of Canada, 2004). Living in poverty is a vicious cycle causing the problem to continue and get worse from one generation to the next (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007).

Children's rights are protected under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Article 26 states that all children have the right to help from the government if they are poor or in need. Article 27 states that children have the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. If necessary the government should help families and guardians who cannot afford to provide adequate food, clothing and housing.

The Government of Canada provides families in need with a Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB). The UCCB is insufficient and does not solve the inequities in income for families. (Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children [CCRC], 2011, p. 2). Families living in poverty need income security, secure work, affordable housing, access to health care and the ability to pursue learning opportunities (CCRC, 2011).

Youth Justice

In Canada the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* replaced the *Young Offenders Act* in 2003 with the intent to lower youth custody rates. The number of youth in secure custody is on the decline, having decreased by 43% between 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). The number of youth between 12 and 17 years of age in custody declined from 25,000 in 1999-2000 to 17,100 in 2003-2004 (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Although these statistics demonstrate a positive trend, there is still a disproportionately high detention rate for ethnic minorities and Aboriginal youth. The number of Aboriginal youth sentenced to custody increased between 2002 to 2004 from 22% to 28% for Aboriginal males and from 28% to 35% for Aboriginal females (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). This is even more shocking when you learn that Aboriginal youth make up 5% of the total youth population in Canada (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). In Saskatchewan, 75% of children in custody are Aboriginal in a province where only 14% of the youth population is Aboriginal (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007).

The majority of crimes committed by young people are non-violent property offences. Only a small number of youth are involved with serious and repeat crimes such as drug trafficking or aggravated assault (Government of Canada, 2004). And although “most child perpetrators of violence have a history as victims of violence and abuse” (CCRC, 2011), sentencing rules often lead to incarceration for a minor property crime.

According to article 37 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) children and youth should only be imprisoned as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. Additionally children should not be detained with adults unless it is in the best interest of the child to do so. Furthermore, Article 40 of the UNCRC encourages the state to promote the child’s reintegration and beneficial role in society, which can best be accomplished through alternative sentencing and rehabilitation programs.

The throne speech of March 2011 proposed changes to the youth justice system focused on strengthening penalties for the “worst crimes” (CCRC, 2011). Yet most child and youth advocates recommend that “since most children involved with the justice system are those who experienced violence domestically, in care and/or on the street, enhanced measures to reduce such violence would help reduce juvenile crime” (CCRC, 2011, p. 5) that the Canadian government provide for forms of justice other than incarceration for children under 18 and focus on rehabilitation (CCRC, 2011).

The Canadian government also needs to create more effective problem identification, intervention strategies, and alternative rehabilitation and prevention measures (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). As noted in a Save the Children report “without addressing the challenges that lead children to come into conflict with the law in the first place, the criminalization of children often increases their marginalization and vulnerability” (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 93).

Child Care

Early childhood is a critical period for child growth and development. Quality learning and child care during 0-6 has a positive effect on children in their present and future (Government of Canada, 2004). Benefits of high-quality care can include enhanced cooperation skills, cognitive and social competencies, and buffer a child from some long-term negative effects of growing up in poverty (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 144).

The three major concerns in relation to childcare are accessibility, lack of national standards and cost (see *Appendix A – Average Cost of Child Care by Province*). Only 15.5% of Canadian children aged 0-12 had access to regulated child care space in 2004 (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). In Canada approximately 80% of child care spaces are organized through the non-profit sector, which has proven to be a patchwork of uncoordinated services (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007).

Article 18 of the UNCRC stated the government shall provide appropriate assistance to parents or legal guardians by ensuring the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children especially with respect to children of working parents.

In Canada, the provinces and territories are generally responsible for early childhood development and care policy, financing, and service provision (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). The federal government is responsible for early childhood development and care programs for Aboriginal communities, military families, and new Canadians. The federal government is also responsible for providing subsidies and tax deductions for child care expenses (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007).

Although there has been progress in improving access to affordable, quality and regulated early learning and child care programs, it has not been enough to meet the needs of Canadian families (Government of Canada, 2004). In most provinces, for a family to become eligible for subsidies their income must be well below the poverty line (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). A 2006 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report stated that “such subsidies are accessed by only 22% of single parents and about 5% of married mothers from low-income families” (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 143).

It is recommended that the Canadian government undertake a comparative analysis at the provincial and territorial levels to ensure that all children have equitable access to quality child care services (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Additionally, “reference to early childhood care and education go beyond the question of ‘daycare’ to include broader issues such as maternity and parental leave, prenatal supports and care, medical care, and primary education” (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 141).

Mental Health

In the area of child well-being, including mental health, Canada ranks 21st out of 29 OECD countries (Leitch, 2007). Suicide follows motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death among Canadian youth; adolescents are the only age group in which suicide is on the rise (Dagnino, 2009). There is an even higher rate of suicide among Aboriginal youth; five times as many Aboriginal youth will commit suicide than the rest of the Canadian youth population (NCA, 2005). Approximately 90% of suicide cases are preceded by a previously noted mental illness (UNICEF, 2007). Moreover, 80% of all psychiatric disorders emerge during adolescence (Leitch, 2007). The mental health of children and youth in Canada is a huge concern, as mental health problems among children and youth are predicted to increase by 50% by the year 2020 (Leitch, 2007). Additionally, only 1 in 5 Canadian children who need mental health services currently receive them (Leitch, 2007).

Lack of proper mental health services has long lasting consequences for children and youth, their families and the community. Poor mental health is strongly related to developmental concerns such as delayed educational achievement, lack of career opportunities/success, poor social interaction, and can limit functioning at home and in the community (Dagnino, 2009). Significant barriers to promoting mental health of youth include lack of knowledge, accessibility to appropriate services, and the stigma associated with mental illness (Dagnino, 2009).

Article 2 of the UNCRC states that no child should be treated unfairly on any basis. Article 23 ensures that a child, whether physically or mentally disabled, should have access to and receive education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner that is conducive to the child achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development. Furthermore, children with a disability have the right to enjoy a full life in conditions that ensure his or her dignity, that promote self reliance, and that facilitate the child's active participation in the community. Additionally, the government has a role in ensuring children with disabilities receive special care and support. Also, article 24 gives every child the right to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, to facilities for treatment of illness, and rehabilitation of health.

Unfortunately, the most recent throne speech and budget did not include steps to improve the well-being of Canada's most marginalized and disadvantaged young people. With the rising rates of obesity, diabetes and mental illness there is a need for practical steps to ensure our children's well-being is on the radar of the nation (CCRC, 2011). Other recommendations include improving access to paediatric mental health services, establishing a wait time strategy for paediatric mental health, and addressing health human resource constraints through training (Leitch, 2007).

Aboriginal Children

Aboriginal people have experienced generations of oppression. From colonization to residential schooling to economic marginalization Aboriginal people's rights are not being upheld. The current state of Aboriginal children is highly correlated to the abuse experienced by generations before them.

Aboriginal children are highly over represented in the child welfare system. The 2005 *Wen:de* report from the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada found that "there are three times more First Nations children in care now than at the height of the residential school era in the 1940s" (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 173). Currently, 30%-40% of all children in care in Canada are Aboriginal (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). In British Columbia over 50% of children in permanent care are Aboriginal, in Saskatchewan and Manitoba 80% of children in care are Aboriginal (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Key factors that contribute to this overrepresentation include increased conditions of poverty, inadequate housing, and substance abuse (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). The primary reason Aboriginal children come into care is due to neglect (NCA, 2005). The high amounts of Aboriginal children in care has serious long-term effects such as lower rates of educational success, higher reliance on income assistance, increased health problems, and increased involvement with the justice system (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Additionally, many front-line workers working in Aboriginal communities are not Aboriginal themselves, limiting their ability to respond to the needs of the Aboriginal community with respect to language and culture. This has the potential to further marginalize children in care (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Aboriginal youth have a 5 times higher rate of suicide than the rest of the Canadian youth population (NCA, 2005).

Poverty is a huge problem affecting Aboriginal children. One out of four children in First Nations communities lives in poverty (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Many of the housing conditions in which they live are unsafe and inadequate. The 2005 Report Card on Child Poverty in Canada noted "about 25% of Aboriginal children off-reserve lives in poor housing conditions, compared to 13% of all children in Canada" (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 179).

Similar to other areas of concern there is a disproportionately high prevalence of health concerns among Aboriginal children. Twice as many Aboriginal babies will be born prematurely, underweight or die within the first year of life. Three to four times as many babies will die by injury, poisoning or violence (NCA, 2005). The rate of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) among Aboriginal children and youth is approximately 10 times higher than for non-Aboriginal children (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Also, 15% of all First Nations children have disabilities and special needs (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). In order to access adequate care, children have to travel off reserve.

Aboriginal children and youth receive poor quality education and are losing the use of traditional languages and culture (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). The 2001 Census found that "only 31% of First Nations youth aged 15 to 24 had a high school diploma or certificate, compared to 58% of non-Aboriginal youth" (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 183). The biggest challenges that are faced by Aboriginal communities with regards to

education are funding, keeping children and youth in school, and providing a curriculum that is responsive enough to their lifestyles and culture (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007).

Every article in the UNCRC applies to Aboriginal children. Article 2 calls on the state to respect and ensure the rights laid in the Convention apply to all children regardless of a child's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status. Additionally, article 30 is specific to countries in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist. A child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.

In Canada the federal government has jurisdiction over "Indians, and Lands reserved for Indians" as per section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, and provides funding for First Nations child and family service agencies under Directive 20-1 (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Currently there has been budget increases in First Nations education and child and family services, however, details are lacking (CCRC, 2011). There has been a plan to build on the historic apology for treatment of children in residential schools; measures will include new legislation for safe drinking water on reserves (CCRC, 2011). There has also been a plan to address the need to investigate and reduce the rate of murdered and missing Aboriginal girls and women through Sisters in Spirit (CCRC, 2011). Since 2005 the federal government has been working with Aboriginal organizations to develop a framework for a National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy that will involve prevention, early intervention and crisis response initiatives (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Finally, Canada will take steps to endorse the Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (CCRC, 2011).

It is recommended that the Canadian government develop a solid groundwork for cooperation among all levels of government and jurisdictions to ensure that a child's well-being and safety always come first in resolving jurisdictional disputes (CCRC, 2011). Also, there is a lack of universal and accessible health programs in rural and northern communities (Government of Canada, 2004). Funding also continues to be a huge need for Aboriginal children and their communities.

Refugee Children

There are four main areas of concern with respect to refugee children; inter-country adoption, family reunification, separated children and trafficking of persons, and detention of child migrants.

Inter-Country Adoption

Approximately 2,000 children are adopted abroad each year, higher than the number of children adopted within Canada each year (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). This number is quite high particularly given the context that adopting abroad is long and expensive. To adopt a child abroad and acquire Canadian citizenship, “parents must apply to sponsor the child from permanent residence under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. Only after such status is granted may they apply for citizenship for the child. This process can take years and involves a substantial monetary investment by the parents in terms of application fees” (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 120-121). Currently a citizen application does distinguish between adopted children and biological children (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). According to article 7 of the UNCRC citizenship should be granted to children adopted abroad. The federal government has proposed changes to the *Citizen Act* through Bill C-14. This bill would eliminate the need to apply for permanent resident status when adopting children abroad. Bill C-14 is under consideration in Parliament (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007).

Family Reunification

A child’s right to family reunification is clearly outlined in the UNCRC in Article 10. Canada, however, has been criticized by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for taking insufficient measures to facilitate family reunification (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). The Department of Citizenship and Immigration states that they have a standard to reunify nuclear families within 6 months (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007), “between August 2005 and September 2006, after only four months only 50% of applications for children sponsored through the family class immigration category were processed” (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 124). During the same period, only 30% of dependants of refugees had been processed after seven months (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Further, “an adult who is granted refugee status in Canada can include his or her children and spouse on an application for permanent residence. By contrast, a child who has been granted refugee status in Canada cannot include his or her parents or siblings on such an application” (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 25). Such prolonged separation can result in emotional estrangement, feelings of abandonment or of being unloved, often losing trust in parents, and depression (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007).

Separated Children and Trafficking

Separated children are a particularly vulnerable population. These children are often dealing with issues of family separation or death, anxiety about their status in Canada, the trauma consequent to witnessing or being a victim of violence, or anxiety about adaptation to a new language and culture (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). “In 2005 the Immigration and Refugee Board dealt with over 25,000 refugee claims, 540 of which

were initially identified as claims by unaccompanied minors” (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 128).

Trafficking of persons for the purpose of sexual or other forms of exploitation is the worst possible fate for unaccompanied refugee children. The government has no concrete evidence of the trafficking of children but there is anecdotal evidence to support its occurrence. A couple of initiatives have been launched by the federal government through the *Criminal Code* and *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. Additionally, the Department of Citizenship has also set out special provisions for trafficked persons. However, none of these laws and programs specifically targeted children (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). The 2011 throne speech did not mention a national strategy to prevent child trafficking (CCRC, 2011).

Detention of Child Migrants

There have been numerous occurrences of detaining refugee children in Canada. In 1999, “134 separated children arrived off the coast of BC from China, 18 were detained because of their suspected involvement with the smugglers” (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 132). During 2005-2006, “715 migrant children were detained in Canada, 70% of whom were detained for less than six days. Six hundred and twenty of these children were accompanied, and 95 were unaccompanied” (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 133). Recently in August 2010 approximately 500 Sri Lankan claimants, including children, arrived in British Columbia. Children remained with their detained parents. Often children accompanied by their parent are much more likely to be detained than separated children (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007).

The UNCRC has many articles that protect refugee children and ensure their rights are upheld. Article 22 gives refugee children the right to special protection as well as all the rights in the UNCRC. With regards to adoption abroad, article 7 states that children have the right to be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality, and when possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents. Article 21 addresses the right for adopted children to be cared for and protected. Rights apply whether they are adopted in the country where they were born, or if they are taken to live in another country. Article 10 ensures that families whose members live in different countries should be allowed to move between those countries so that parents and children can stay in contact or be reunified. Separated and trafficked children and protected according to article 35; the government should take all measures possible to make sure that children are not abducted, sold or trafficked. Under article 9, a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will unless it is in the absolute best interest of the child to do so.

It is recommended that Canada adopt and implement a national policy on separated children seeking asylum in Canada and implement a process to appoint a guardian for the child (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Furthermore, these refugee children seeking asylum should have access to basic services such as education and health (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Canada should refrain from detaining minors except as an absolute last resort.

Violence against Children and Youth

Children and youth in Canada are the most vulnerable victims and witnesses of violence. Some of the environments in which children and youth are exposed to violence include homes, schools, communities, and the internet. Two particular areas in which violence towards a child or youth is rising is through Internet-based sexual abuse and peer violence.

Internet-based Sexual Abuse

The Internet is rapidly growing in some very scary ways. According to the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime (OFOVC), “the number of charges for production or distribution of child pornography increased by 900 percent between 1998 and 2003” (2007, p. 2). Thousands of new images and videos are posted on the Internet every week. Currently, it is estimated that there are “over 5 million unique child sexual abuse images on the Internet” (OFOVC, 2007, p. 5). The Internet has allowed offenders a higher amount of anonymity. It is estimated that 500,000 individuals are actively involved in the illegal trade of child sexual abuse images and there are over 750,000 pedophiles online at any given time (OFOVC, 2007). Furthermore, victims of online sexual abuse are getting younger. Eighty-three percent of children are 12 or younger, 39% are between 3 and 5, and 19% are under 3 (OFOVC, 2007, p. 8). Although many assume that the offender and the victim are not related, most child sexual abuse image producers are known to the victims:

- *“37 percent are family members.*
- *36 percent are acquaintances.*
- *Over 30 percent of those convicted of possessing child pornography were living with minor children; almost 50 percent had access to minors at home, socially or as part of their jobs” (OFOVC, 2007, p. 5).*

A victim of sexual abuse images must grow up knowing images or videos of himself or herself will be on the Internet for the rest of their life (OFOVC, 2007). There is very little research to understand how this type of abuse impacts victims and what can be done to help them (OFOVC, 2007).

Children and youth are protected from sexual abuse through the UNCRC. Article 16 of the UNCRC outlines the right children have to privacy; no child should be subject to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. Furthermore, Articles 19, 34, 35, and 36 all stress the protection of children from all forms of violence and exploitation including sexual abuse images or videos. Finally, section 39 puts the rehabilitation of child victims as a governmental responsibility. This article stresses the need to foster health, self-respect, and dignity of the child.

Canada has show great action internationally with respect to better responding to the abuse of children. The federal government launched the National Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet in 2004. Also, in 2005, the Canadian government “expanded the definition of child pornography, increased the maximum penalty for all child pornography offences and introduces mandatory minimum penalties” (OFOVC, 2007, p. 10). The federal government took further steps in 2007 by “raising the

age of consent from 14 to 16, enhancing the dangerous offender provisions of the *Criminal Code* and dedicating an additional \$6 million to the RCMP to protect children 'from online sexual exploitation...' " (OFOVC, 2007, p. 11). In 2008 there was a push to create legislation that requires Electronic Service Providers (ESPs) to report the discovery of child sexual abuse images. So far in Canada, Manitoba and Ontario have passed such legislation (OFOVC, 2007). Most recently, the throne speech recognized the need for further protection by seeking "increasing penalties for sexual offences against children and strengthening Sexual Offender Registry" (CCRC, 2011, p. 4).

Recommendations include amending the *Criminal Code* to have a more accurate description of the crime and to change Internet privacy laws, including introducing legislation that requires ISPs to report any child sexual abuse images or videos and; to develop a national strategy to identify victims and expand on resources available to them (OFOVC, 2007). Furthermore, it is recommended that "all new legislation should be reviewed through a child impact assessment to avoid unintended negative consequences, such as criminally sanctioning children for online activities when other responses are more appropriate" (CCRC, 2011, p. 4).

Peer Violence

Over the past several years there has been an increase in reported youth violence and youth gang activity in Canadian communities (Dagnino, 2009). Children and youth are experiencing a greater amount of bullying in schools and on the Internet. Bullying can include but is not limited to physical or verbal aggression, social exclusion, sexually inappropriate, name calling, gossip and emotional intimidation (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). A survey conducted by the University of Toronto found that "between 10% and 30% of Canadian children surveyed experience bullying at school at least some of the time" (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 71). Furthermore, the increase in Internet usage and electronic technology has allowed for more anonymity (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Currently in Canada, "46% of Canadian children and youth experience unwanted sexual advances and sexually inappropriate discussions in chat rooms, 43% were approached on the internet by someone who wanted personal information from the, and 25% of Canadian children and youth who used the internet received hateful emails" (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 72). Additionally, "in the World Health Organization's young people's health survey, Canada ranked 26th and 27th of 35 countries in terms of measures to deal with bullying and victimization" (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 73). Bullying is often underreported and can have serious negative consequences for children (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Children and youth whom have experienced bullying can be affected academically, socially, psychologically, emotional and physically (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007). Moreover, those who bully or are bullied are more likely to "become involved with mental health, juvenile justice, special education, and social services institutions in the longer term" (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007, p. 72).

Article 19 of the UNCRC, states that the government should take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, and education measures to protect children from all forms of physical and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation. It is therefore recommended that Canada adopt a national strategy to combat bullying that would include a national education campaign to teach children, parents, and teachers about bullying, and to promote conflict resolution and effective intervention strategies (Andreychuck & Fraser, 2007).

Appendix A – Average Cost of Child Care by Province
(Today's Parent, 2010)

Options	Province	Average cost per day			
		Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School age
Daycare	Alberta	\$46	\$42	\$39	\$32
	British Columbia	\$43	\$41	\$34	\$25
	Manitoba	\$28	\$28	\$19	\$15
	New Brunswick	\$32	\$28	\$28	\$15
	Newfoundland & Labrador	\$33	\$33	\$32	\$19
	Nova Scotia	\$33	\$31	\$31	\$20
	Ontario	\$57	\$50	\$41	\$33
	Prince Edward Island	\$35	\$25	\$24	\$15
	Quebec	\$33	\$33	\$31	\$24
	Saskatchewan	\$34	\$27	\$26	\$15
Home care	Alberta	\$34	\$34	\$31	\$28
	British Columbia	\$43	\$43	\$29	\$25
	Manitoba	\$26	\$26	\$26	\$23
	Newfoundland & Labrador	\$32	\$32	\$31	\$29
	Nova Scotia	\$29	\$29	\$29	\$29
	Ontario	\$43	\$43	\$41	\$41
	Prince Edward Island	\$38	\$25	\$25	\$17
	Quebec	\$27	\$27	\$27	\$22
	Saskatchewan	\$31	\$28	\$24	\$19
Live-in nanny	Across Canada	Average weekly salary is \$300 (after deducting room and board)			
Live-out nanny	Across Canada	Average weekly salary can vary from \$475-\$750			

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