

July 14 2008

Ms. Liane Venasse, A/Manager  
Human Rights Program  
Department of Canadian Heritage  
Destination code: 15-11-C  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 0M5

Dear Ms. Venasse:

Re: Canada's Third and Fourth Reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Thank you for your letter of May 13 2008 inviting comments on the issues that have been identified for inclusion in Canada's next report on its implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Optional Protocol.

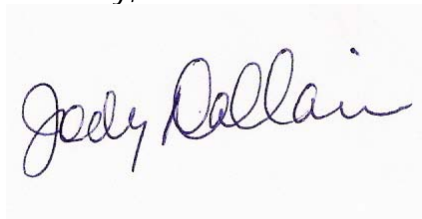
Given that Canada "has streamlined its approach to focus its reports more narrowly on key issues of importance to the UN committees", we concur with your identification of child care as a key social policy issue for inclusion in Canada's next report. During the reporting period, between 2003 and 2007:

- Federal, provincial and territorial governments made (and subsequently partially changed) various commitments to improving access to quality, affordable and regulated child care services. Governments have also committed to providing clear annual reports that allow the public to track progress.
- As a result, children in Canada and their families have varying recent experiences of social policy related to child care and access to quality, affordable child care services remains a key topic in the public discourse.
- Furthermore, a number of international bodies have reviewed Canada's child care services in comparison to other countries.

We will be forwarding our comments on child care social policy in Canada directly to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Thank you for the opportunity to confirm the importance of including child care services in Canada's report.

Sincerely,



Jody Dallaire, Chairperson