

Keeping you up to date on events and resources essential for healthier schools and communities

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About Us



Our Vision: Children and youth in British Columbia are nurtured in safe, caring, and inclusive schools and communities to ensure their well-being and maximize their potential.

Our Mission: To facilitate the use of evidence-informed approaches to promoting safe, healthy, and inclusive schools and communities.

Our Mandate: To provide research and resources which support the creation of safe and socially just schools and communities throughout the province.

To learn more about us and what is available through our centre...

Visit us online:	www.bccssc.ca	Office Hours:	Monday to Friday 8:30 – 4:30 pm Closed Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays
Contact us:	safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca		A203 - 33844 King Road Abbotsford BC V2S 7M8
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Theme

Honoring the Rights of the Child - BC Child Rights Public Awareness Campaign

School has started so take out your pencils and begin with a pop quiz! **What are child rights?** Ask an adult in Canada and they will likely tell you child rights are needed most for kids in ‘developing’ countries, or that child rights are undesirable because they will make kids difficult to control. Ask a kid about child rights and they might tell you their rights include having no homework, a new iPhone, or attending schools made out of chocolate cake. **The answer?** None of the above. Children’s rights are concerned about the proper care and protection of all children while instilling a sense of shared responsibility.

In fact, children’s rights are set out in 54 articles that form the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). These rights affirm children’s entitlement to healthy development, protection, participation, and non-discrimination. It acknowledges that children’s rights can only be realized through the **care and assistance of adults** with the meaningful **participation of children and youth**. Part of meaningfully engaging children and youth is finding out what’s on their mind. For many kids, especially as they are heading back to school, one might be hard-pressed to find a child who doesn’t have a personal story about bullying.

Bullying interferes with a child’s entitlement to healthy development. Adults play a key role in preventing bullying. Parents have an important role to play by monitoring their child’s contacts and activities outside of the home. To learn more about what parents can do, click [here](#). By implementing key strategies, schools can also create safe spaces for all children to learn and grow to their full potential. Strong adult leadership that encourages student-teacher bonding is paramount, along with establishing clear, fair, and consistent norms for behaviour. To learn more about the core components that undergird effective anti-bullying programs, the Canadian Public Health Association has published [Assessment Toolkit for Bullying, Harassment and Peer Relations at School](#).

To support child rights in the province and across Canada the [Society for Children and Youth of BC](#), [BC Centre for Safe Schools and Communities](#), the [Representative for Children and Youth](#), and [Reel Youth](#) have formed a partnership to launch a Child Rights

Public Awareness Campaign in November 2010. Watch for the new public transit ads, print/poster materials, a campaign website (everychild.ca), public service announcements in the form of short animated features online and in movie theatres, radio, media engagement, community outreach, and join the [child rights network](#)! The child rights website (available in November) will offer practical tools on how to use the UNCRC in everyday life, including classroom settings, the workplace, community, at home, and as an advocacy tool. It isn't too early to get involved! We invite you to:

1. [Join our Child Rights Network](#) and stay informed
2. Spread the word about the campaign
3. [Email us](#) with child friendly resources and events so we can post them on the new website
4. [Send](#) a profile of your organization (name, website, scope of work) and we can include you as a resource on the website
5. [Share](#) child rights initiatives and stories with us

The remainder of this newsletter offers further opportunities for learning about and supporting child rights across BC.

CSSC appreciates participation from Christina Thiele of Society for Children and Youth of BC in co-authoring this article.

Become an advocate of children's rights by implementing programs that encourage the development of healthy relationships:



The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) was developed by Dan Olweus of Norway. OBPP is perhaps the most researched and probably best-known bullying prevention program available. Well recognized in the scientific literature, this model program aims to reduce existing bullying problems, prevent the development of new bullying behaviours, and attain more positive peer relations at school. More information about costs and training for implementing a whole school approach can be found at the following sites: [Hazeldon Book Store](#) and [Olweus Bullying Prevention Program](#).

FRIENDS For Life is an evidence-based resiliency and anxiety prevention classroom program available to students in BC. FRIENDS teaches life skills and coping strategies to help children manage difficult situations. There are two program levels – the child program for grades 4 & 5 (also available in French) and the youth program for grade 7 students. One-day training for teachers, including all program materials (leader manual, student workbooks and supplemental activities) is free of charge to teachers who are committed to delivering the program. FRIENDS fulfills provincial educational learning outcomes in the Health & Career Education K-7 curriculum and is included in the Ministry of Education's Grade Collection. The goal is to reach as many students as possible to improve mental health outcomes. To date, all BC school districts have participated, including many independent schools. For more information about BC FRIENDS, click [here](#).



Fourth R is an evidence based curriculum developed at the University of Western Ontario. This program targets adolescent risk taking behaviour and consists of three units: relationship safety; sexual health; and, substance use/abuse. [Training is fully funded](#) and targeted for secondary teachers in Planning Ten, and Aboriginal or Alternative Education programs. **Sign up is now.** For more information about training on October 22, 2010 in Vancouver, click [here](#).

Respect Ed offers a range of facilitator training programs for both youth and adults:

1. [Prevention Educator Partner Training – Healthy Youth Relationships](#) – become a Red Cross certified facilitator of an 8 module “Healthy Youth Relationships” workshop for delivering to youth grades 8-12. This workshop offers training and activities to identify healthy relationships, communication, differences between love & infatuation, emotional/physical and sexual assault and intervening. Training: 4 hour online course and 1 day in-person. **Next in-person training date:** November 26, 2010.
2. [RespectED Prevention Educator Training – “It’s Not Your Fault! : child abuse prevention”](#) - become a Red Cross certified facilitator of the 11 module “It’s Not Your Fault!” workshop for delivering to youth grades 6-9. This workshop offers activities and training in child rights, identifying types of child abuse, discipline vs. abuse, internet exploitation, and how to get help. Training: 4 hour online course and 1 day in-person. **Next in-person training date:** October 22, 2010.
3. [RespectED Youth Facilitator Training – “Beyond the Hurt”: Bullying Prevention](#) - support youth (grades 10-12) in becoming trained bullying prevention facilitators. This program helps youth develop leadership abilities by becoming ambassadors of bullying prevention and intervention at school. Youth are trained over 2 days to develop workshops which they then deliver in teams to grades 6-9 peers. Trainings are available for booking at your school October – April.



For registration deadlines, costs and training dates contact Respected.lmr@redcross.ca or call Linda Kuan at (604) 709 6619 to organize training in your own school district.

Further information to promote child rights:

- BC Ministry of Children and Family Development – Keeping Kids Safe from Abuse
http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/keeping_kids_safe.htm
- BC Representative for Children and Youth
<http://www.rcybc.ca/content/home.asp>
- Canadian Children's Rights Council
<http://www.canadiancrc.com/default.aspx>
- Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch
http://www.cba.org/bc/public_media/rights/238.aspx
- International Institute for Child Research and Development - UVIC
<http://www.iicrd.org/>
- Human Rights Education Association
<http://www.hrea.org/index.php>
- Save the Children Canada
http://www.savethechildren.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=600&Itemid=108&lang=en
- Society for Children and Youth of BC
<http://www.scyofbc.org>
- The Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC)
<http://rightsofchildren.ca/>

Publications related to child rights:

- Ministry of Children and Families – Child Protection
http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/publications.htm
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Poster.
http://dpi.wi.gov/ccic/pdf/poster_crc_child_friendly_language.pdf
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child booklets.
Contact SafeSchoolsCommunities@ufv.ca for copies of 10 or less.
Printed booklets can also be obtained from: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>
- Publications from UNICEF
<http://www.unicef.ca/portal/SmartDefault.aspx?at=1312>

Important Dates:

October 14 - 20, 2010 – YWCA Week Without Violence

Each year, Canadians connect with people in over 90 countries around the world to mark [YWCA's Week Without Violence™](#) for the purpose of promoting a violence-free world. You can plan or post your event by visiting the YWCA website where they also offer free materials, such as organizer and media kits to plan your event.

November 1-5, 2010 - Media Literacy Week

Media Awareness Network (MNet) and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) have chosen Gender and Media as the theme for Canada's 5th Media Literacy Week. As co-hosts of the annual event, MNet and the CTF are encouraging teachers, parents, and professionals working with young people to explore issues related to gender representation in media – body image, stereotyping, sexualisation, roles and relationships – as well as how media can be harnessed to provide more realistic and empowering role models for youth. For media education, how to get started, and a press kit [click here](#).

November 20, 2010 – Canada's National Child Day

On November 20, 2010, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child will celebrate 21 years of existence. The purpose of Child Day is to promote awareness, take action, and celebrate progress that has been made in this area. Advocate for children and youth in your community by planning an activity in celebration and to raise awareness! [More information](#)

December 2 - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

Observed annually to remind people that modern slavery works against human rights, readers can click [here](#) to obtain flyers, posters, leaflets, and newsletters directed toward abolishing slavery and the slave trade that can be used for distributing throughout universities and in public areas.

Library Corner

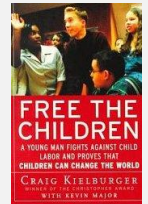
The BC Centre's Library collection has many resources to promote a better understanding of child rights and related issues. Below is a sample of book titles that can be borrowed from our library:



The Highly Sensitive Child: Helping Our Children Thrive When the World Overwhelms Them

15-20% of children are highly sensitive and are often labeled shy, introverted, or fussy. This practical book helps parents know what to do, when to back off, and how to advocate for their needs at school.

Free the Children is a passionate and astounding story providing a moving testament to the power that children and young adults have to change the world. This is highlighted through the achievements of one remarkable young man.

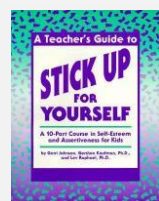
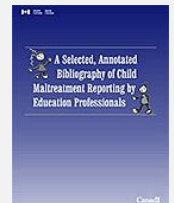


The Scared Child: Helping Kids Overcome Traumatic Events

Traumatic experiences contribute to fear in children. No matter what the cause, helping children deal with fear effectively includes coaching techniques designed to encourage kids of any age to reveal their feelings through words, drawings, and role play. This book offers step-by-step advice for reassuring children and helping them let go of their fear.

A selected, annotated bibliography of child maltreatment reporting by education professionals

This bibliography looks at the issue reporting within the school setting. It contains summaries of articles about mandated reporting for school professionals. The bibliography focuses mainly on articles published in peer review journals since 1990 although key articles published before 1990 have also been included.



A Teacher's guide to: stick up for yourself! A 10-part course in the self-esteem and assertiveness for kids

This teacher's guide provides a complete course for helping upper-elementary and middle school-age young people build self-esteem, become more self-aware, and develop and practice assertiveness skills. It is designed to be implemented as a comprehensive self-esteem curriculum in classroom settings.

SAFE Internet Safety Activities: Reproducible Projects for Teachers and Parents

This easy to use guide will help elementary and middle school students become internet savvy. Filled with enjoyable activities, it covers topics on basic internet safety, protecting personal information, preventing cyber-bullying, avoiding predators, netiquette, and more.



The Centre's library has resources for a wide variety of safety and social responsibility-related themes. We welcome you to search our on-line catalogue at <http://www.ufv.ca/bccssc> or call us for more information at 1-888-224-7233.

Upcoming Conferences and Events

Childhood: A Journey of Change

October 4 – 6, Enoch, AB

Mental Health Works Full-Day Workshops (CMHA BC Division)

Oct 6 and 7, Prince George, BC

The State of Children's Development in British Columbia

October 13, Vancouver BC

British Columbia School Counselors Association Annual Conference

October 21 - 22, Vancouver, BC

Speaking of Kids 2010

October 22, 2010, Vancouver, BC

Vancouver School District – The Fourth R Training

October 22, 2010, Vancouver, BC

9th International Looking After Children Conference: Youth in Mind- Beyond the Risk

October 25-27, Montreal, QC

Childhood and Adolescent Obesity 2010

October 27-29, 2010, Hamilton, Ontario

Child in the City Conference 2010

October, 27-29, Florence, Italy

First Call for the Children Annual Dinner

October 28, Vancouver, BC

Complex Traumatic Stress Disorders: Advances in Conceptualization and Evidence-Based Treatments

Oct 28-29, 2010, New Westminster, BC

BC Crime Prevention Association

November 5-6, 2010, Surrey, BC

The Challenge and Promise of the CyberWorld: Bullying Prevention in the Age of the Internet

November 15-17, Seattle, WA.

The 6th World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental Health Disorders. Addressing Imbalances: Promoting Equity in Mental Health

November 17-19, Washington, DC

Hot Topics and New Releases

Controversial Study – Grading the Teachers: Value-Added Analysis

The Los Angeles Times has produced a [controversial study](#) featuring an analysis of how effective Los Angeles Unified School District teachers have been at improving their students' performance on standardized tests. The Times has made these ratings available because they bear on the performance of public employees who provide an important service, and in the belief that parents and the public have a right to the information. To hear more about this controversial study as it applies to the Canadian context, listen to [CBC's The Current](#) aired on September 15th.

Media Awareness Network

This dynamic Canadian website offers engaging and dynamic educational resources, media games, and research to encourage the formation of media and digital savvy youth. Youth will enjoy the special effects found in many of these resources, and teachers or parents will find [useful tools and information](#) for engaging youth in critical thinking and education regarding this issue.

Ministry of Education Safe Schools Strategy

Everybody has a role to play in supporting positive behaviours. BC schools are striving to develop positive and welcoming school cultures, and are committed to fostering optimal learning environments. Members of these school communities share a commitment to maintaining safe, caring and orderly schools. To learn more about prevention of problems and use school-wide efforts to build "community," fostering respect, inclusion, fairness and equity, click [here](#).

Book - Students' Perspectives on Schooling

Author Audrey Osler explores how schools might be transformed for the better, by giving greater weight to the views of students. This book is useful for teachers, school leaders, educational researchers, and anyone involved with educational policy-making and planning. Click [here](#) for publisher and ordering information.

Comic Books to Encourage Literacy Among Youth

Did you know that you can promote literacy by encouraging young people to read comic books? The Health Aboriginal Network is releasing 4 comic books this fall and winter with themes of smoking cessation, sexual health, youth in care and living with FASD. Click [here](#) to find previews, obtain ordering information, and view other publications of this nature.

We would love to hear from you!

If you have a request for information for future newsletters or an event to support the goal of promoting safer schools and communities, please call or forward your correspondence to safeschoolscommunities@ufv.ca for consideration in upcoming newsletters. We look forward to hearing from you!



www.bccssc.ca

www.bccnpd.ca

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