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it's our
time
**TO BE
HEARD!**

Celebrate National Child Day 2017

Bring your MP to School Day

- WHO?** An invitation to MPs across all parties and to schools across the country
- WHAT?** A celebration of National Child Day and an opportunity for MPs to hear from children and youth in their ridings
- WHEN?** A one-hour visit by an MP to a local school during the week of November 13–17
- WHERE?** At an elementary and/or secondary school in participating MP ridings
- WHY?** To celebrate National Child Day and hear from Canada's youngest citizens by "bringing Parliament to children and youth"
- HOW?** Contact UNICEF Canada for information and support to MPs and schools to participate in this exciting event: policy@unicef.ca or **416 482 4444 ext. 8897**

ABOUT UNICEF

UNICEF has saved more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization. We work tirelessly to help children and their families, doing whatever it takes to ensure children survive. We provide children with healthcare and immunization, clean water, nutrition and food security, education, emergency relief and more.

UNICEF is supported entirely by voluntary donations and helps children regardless of race, religion or politics. As part of the UN, we are active in over 190 countries – more than any other organization. Our determination and our reach are unparalleled. **Because nowhere is too far to go to help a child survive.**

For more information visit unicef.ca.

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ABOUT NATIONAL CHILD DAY (NOV 13–17)

National Child Day has been celebrated in Canada since it was officially declared with the *Child Day Act* in 1993 to commemorate the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The day coincides with Universal Children’s Day, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1954 to encourage all countries to institute a day to promote mutual exchange and understanding among children and to take action to promote the well-being of the world’s children. In addition to UNICEF Canada’s efforts to promote National Child Day, it is also celebrated widely across the country and promoted by civil society organizations and various levels of government. For more information visit: childday.gc.ca.

SAMPLE AGENDA

1. **Welcome**
(5 minutes)
2. **Introduction to MP**
(5 minutes)
3. **Opening remarks from MP**
(5 minutes)
4. **Question and Answer period**
(40 minutes)
5. **Wrap up and thank you**
(5 minutes)

ABOUT UNICEF CANADA’S “BRING YOUR MP TO SCHOOL DAY”

Building on UNICEF Canada’s historic role in commemorating National Child Day, we have launched a “Bring your MP to School Day” initiative so that children’s voices, concerns and interests find expression in and enjoy meaningful attention from parliaments. The link between members of parliament and their constituents is at the core of the representative function of parliament. Engaging with children and youth – generally a quarter of the population – helps inform decisions that affect this vulnerable but non-voting population, and advances the civic education of Canada’s youngest citizens.

RESOURCES FOR CHILD AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS:

- A Handbook on Child Participation in Parliament, Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 18 – 2011, Inter-Parliamentary Union and UNICEF, ipu.org/PDF/publications/child-parl-e.pdf
- General Comment #12 on Right to be Heard, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2009) www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC-C-GC-12.doc

FOR CHILDREN: unicef.ca/en/teachers/article/global-classroom-learn-about-unicef

FOR YOUTH: unicef.ca/en/get-involved/youth

FOR EDUCATORS: globalclassroom.unicef.ca and rightsrespectingschools.ca