

Celebrate National Child Day 2017, Bring your MP to School Day

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