

**DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN
INTERNATIONAL
CANADA**



2023 – 2025 Strategic Plan

Review For Circulation & Feedback



These 2023 – 25 Strategic Plan Slides include

- DCI Canada Purpose from Articles of Continuance
- DCI Canada Vision & Mission statements
- DCI Canada Strategic Goals 1 to 8
- A Continuous Improvement Model including request to select groups for feedback on the Plan

Articles of Continuance



Statement of the purpose of the corporation

- To educate Canadians on all matters pertaining to children's rights.
- To encourage an awareness of and a commitment to children's rights, particularly among children and adolescents and their mutual cooperation in situations, problems and initiatives affecting the rights of children and the manner in which they are exercised in Canada and abroad.

Articles of Continuance



Statement of the purpose of the corporation 2023-25 Actions and possible additions

- To educate Canadians on all matters pertaining to children's rights.
- And provide them with vetted and reliable resources on how to make sure that children's rights are upheld



Statement of the purpose of the corporation 2023-25 Actions and possible additions

- To encourage an awareness of and a commitment to children's rights, particularly among children and adolescents and their mutual cooperation in situations, problems and initiatives affecting the rights of children and the manner in which they are exercised in Canada and abroad.
- And to acknowledge that all children's rights are not honoured in the same way, to take into account particular distinctions.



**A world where children's rights are
acknowledged, respected, and
implemented!**



A world where children's rights are acknowledged, respected, and implemented!

Equitably with consideration of cultural, economic, systemic, and political contexts/backgrounds/constraints

Mission Statement



DCI-Canada's Mission is to promote and protect the rights of the child by:

- Increasing awareness and creating solidarity on children's rights issues in Canada and worldwide;
- Fostering, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of children's rights as set out in international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Seeking, promoting and implementing the most effective means of securing the protection of children's rights in concrete situations;
- Encouraging cooperation and action, nationally, regionally and internationally, to improve mechanisms for protecting children's rights

Mission Statement –Ensuing Actions for 2023-25 & Beyond



DCI-Canada's Mission is to promote and protect the rights of the child by:

- Increasing awareness and creating solidarity on children's rights issues in Canada and worldwide;
- to take a reconciliation-based approach where DCI-Canada contributes to reconciliation in a way that also raises awareness of children's rights, As per first 1-5 TRC Calls to Action for actions to be taken to support First Nations, Metis, and Inuit children's rights in Canada

Mission Statement –Ensuing Actions for 2023-25 & Beyond



DCI-Canada's Mission is to promote and protect the rights of the child by:

- Fostering, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of children's rights as set out in international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- And the accompanying UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples & the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Mission Statement 2023-25 Ensuing Actions and Beyond



DCI-Canada's Mission is to promote and protect the rights of the child by:

- Seeking, promoting and implementing the most effective means of securing the protection of children's rights in concrete situations;
- Encouraging cooperation and action, nationally, regionally and internationally, to improve mechanisms for protecting children's rights
- Including accountability mechanisms for when states themselves are found to be violating children's rights

Overview of Program Areas



Overview of Prioritized Goals for *Action* for the next three years 2023-25

- Information & Education on the UNCRC and its current issues via the Annual Grant (Lowery Lecture)
- Promote the Voice and Efforts of Youth on Child Rights via the Les Horne Award
- Advocate for Children at Risk and Provide a Child Lens
- Speak out WITH and ON BEHALF of Children and Youth to validate their experiences
- Respond through the media when others are afraid
- Build Capacity for Teachers to teach Child Rights in School via finding or creating resources
- Develop Strategy and Capacity to be able to respond Nationally via finding folks and their networks and their needs and drawing in people with time and resources



1. Information & Education on the UNCRC and its current issues

Activity:

Via the Annual Grant Lowery Lecture and use the lecture to measure impact on the topic through: building solidarity, follow up with attendees, facilitating other forums and alliances.

Integrate UNDRIP alongside the UNCRC. The issues impacting First Nations, Metis and Inuit children's rights are critical to any understanding of children's rights in Canada and to see broader, more holistic integration of these experiences.



2. Promote the Voice and Efforts of Youth on Child Rights

Activity:

Via the Les Horne Award and use the award to reach out to youth and tell their stories



3. Advocate for Children at Risk and Provide a Child Lens Through the Eyes of the Child

Activity:

- Court and Legislation Appearances, Comments, Briefs, Testimony.
- Immigration and Deportation issues.
- International Conversations with other DCI's and Geneva Office on Child leaving and Entering barriers leading to referral banks and collaboration allies.
- Systemic Identification of problems and strategy for Involvement including selection criteria.
- Involvement with other Provincial Child Advocates and National Offices.
- Child Safety on the internet.



3. Advocate for Children at Risk and Provide a Child Lens Through the Eyes of the Child

Activity: Including Structural Conditions created where First Nations children are deemed “at-risk” when it comes to child welfare involvement - i.e. poverty, intergenerational trauma from residential school experiences, overcrowded housing, & more.

DCI Canada can address these structural issues in the context of its work.



4. Speak out WITH and ON BEHALF of Children and Youth to validate their experiences and check against our own policies, programs and effectiveness.

Activity:

- Involving youth from past and current groups on issues they face or that affect and relate to them.
- And across Canada with other National & Provincial Child Advocates, lawyers and legal clinics



5. Respond through the media when others are afraid

Activity:

Past, current & future media contacts on current issues



6. Build Capacity for Teachers to teach Child Rights in School

Activity:

Finding or creating resources in Canadian Teachers Federation, & partners, for National Distribution

and also encouraging teachers to integrate quality resources developed by First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities, and where available, young people from communities into their teaching.



7. Develop Strategy and Capacity to be able to respond Nationally

Activity:

Via finding folks and their networks and their needs and drawing in people with time and resources

Build a National Support Network starting with our own networks to create a National DCI Canada from our own network, international coalitions, Ontario and other provincial contacts, creating lists for constant contact on their issues.

Diversify the Board and Membership to inclusivity, diversity, equity & access (IDEA) via building contact with community **groups for their stories, journeys *and input.***



7. Develop Strategy and Capacity to be able to respond Nationally

Activity:

Diversify the Board and Membership to inclusivity, diversity, equity & access (IDEA) via building contact with community **groups for their stories, journeys *and* input.**

involving young people in these roles, as they have great perspectives and experiences to offer.



8. Strengthen DCI International Contacts on Domestic & World Child Rights Issues

Activity:

Via DCI Geneva Office, DCI Americas Regional Forum, Other DCI National Offices & Regional Forums

Continuous Improvement Model - Feedback



Goal 4: Childrens Voices:

A good strategy. Impressive and practical. The one element I found missing or at least not emphasized was that of children themselves. I'm sure there is a way in one of the categories to tell the stories of individual children, how their rights have been and continue to be abused. I would like to see a series of stories, perhaps in their own words of children in various countries facing a denial of their basic human rights. There has to be some point in the various narratives where children are the major focus.

Continuous Improvement Model - Feedback



- Building Alliances:
- identifying Canadian organizations that have already publicly declared their support for ensuring an important aspect of child rights, 682 have already done so by endorsing the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth. Their names are in the public domain and listed on the CHEO website at www.cheo.on.ca/en/physicalpunishment; www.cheo.on.ca/fr/punitioncorporelle.
- You know one of the distinguished Canadians who have endorsed the Joint Statement. You helped us word his brief bio.

Continuous Improvement Model - Feedback



Goal 1 & 6 :Education:

Printing CRCs for every child in Canada.

Goal 3: Advocacy:

And I would recommend is the need for a prominent person to embody what DCI-Canada is trying to do. a person, perhaps a former GG, who can attract media attention.

Continuous Improvement Model - Feedback



Holistic Integration with equality, children, first nations

the plan could take a more substantive equality approach to understanding and protecting children's rights in Canada. We also think it would be great to see the inclusion of accountability mechanisms for when the perpetrators of rights violations are States themselves, as is the case for First Nations children in Canada. Throughout our comments you will notice we encourage a reconciliation approach; this can be applied to the form of resources used, integration of UNDRIP alongside the UNCRC and directly involving young people in various advisory positions for matters that directly affect them.



General Comments:

- I am impressed with the range and depth of your goals, raising the issues on the individual needs of children and the many layers of support and intervention that is needed.
- This range includes the local, regional, provincial, national and international.
- I support your priorities as they include children in the process
- I think your strategic plan looks great! If you ever need anything from me to help support DCI-Canada let me know
- This all makes sense to me.
- Well done.



**Thanks to all responders for your
kind, supportive
and
challenging feedback!**

Continuous Improvement Model



From Board. Circulate to:

Patrons, DCI lecturers, Youth winners of DCI's Rights in Action Award, Large Donors in summer/fall 2023.

Receive comments and feedback to the Plan by Oct 10 for summary to Board.

Integrate comments and feedback into the Plan by November 14 for presentation to AGM

Approve 2023-25 Plan at next Board Meeting

Develop Year 1 Operations Plan and Annual Reporting