



Conseil de recherches
en sciences humaines
du Canada

INTERNATIONAL
CHILD
PROTECTION
NETWORK
OF CANADA

FACILITATING CHILD PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION
OCTOBER 5-6, 2015
RYERSON UNIVERSITY, CANADA

Oct. 7, 2015: Small Group Follow Up Planning Summary

Common vision

Relationships and environment

A world where all living beings have a space to flourish and connect with each other and with the environment, feel a sense of belonging, and nurture open and sustainable relationships that span generations and value diversity, being one with nature.

Respect and dignity

The ways we are together—from the everyday ways we relate and communicate to the formal ways we work and organize ourselves—are based on respect and dignity for self and for others.

Equality

A world where all people have access to resources, power, justice, and opportunities to live well and thrive at individual and collective levels.

Governance

1. Children as citizens who participate inside governance through institutional mechanisms that operate bottom-up.
2. Structures and practices that enable interaction and accountability between civil society (including children), elected officials, the private sector, and formal authorities.
3. An independent child rights commission compliant with the Paris Principle.
4. Explicit commitment by all governance institutions to uphold human rights.

Children as partners

Children, recognizing their diversity, are equal partners with adults in all that we collectively do. Together, we inform and determine our priorities, processes, implementation, evaluation, and progress.

Self-determination

A world where children are protagonists and are enabled to exercise their right to self-determination.

Next steps: Please contact project leads for more details.

Working children: Richard Carothers, Partners in Technology Exchange, Project Lead

- Submission of a letter to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that is working on the General Comment on the Rights of Adolescents. The letter provides a rationale for *not* including the minimum age standards of ILO 138 in the General Comment, as there is concern that this could cause harm for many working children. While the group working on the letter has a particular interest in children's work, the General Comment applies to a wide range of issues facing adolescents. The letter is being circulated for endorsement.

Criminalizing children's activity: Richard Carothers, Partners in Technology Exchange, Project Lead

- Developing a project proposal that would among other things look at how and why there is an increasing tendency to criminalize activities that children deem to be safe

Child and Youth Contributions in Peace Processes, Reconstruction and Emergency Situations: Ivette Fonseca, Plan Canada, & Linda Dale, Children/Youth as Peacebuilders, Project Leads

- Children living in conflict/post-conflict situations have unique skills and needs that are a product of their experiences. However, focused attention and models for addressing these needs using a participatory approach are limited. The objective is to conduct the analysis in emergency situations that have a range of programming issues. This initiative is in the development phase and is being presented to the ICPNC for member suggestions and overall support. We hope this will establish the foundation for a collaborative relationship that will both enhance the project's program and contribute to ICPNC's capacities in child protection work.

Measuring child participation in international child protection programs: Tara Collins, Ryerson University, Project Lead

- A Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC of Canada) Partnership Development Grant proposal was submitted on November 30, 2015. This international project aims to develop and pilot effective measures of children's participation within international child protection programmes. This grant would allow the consolidation and expansion of: the growing partnership between academics, practitioners and policy-makers; the inter-disciplinary conceptual and theoretical framework, which in turn can encourage critical thinking and practical changes; the co-production of knowledge with children and their communities. This initiative included a Youth Coordinator who was involved in the Youth Preparatory meeting on Oct. 4, 2015, to support child and youth participation in the research process and results.

Children's Rights and Climate Change: Philip Cook, International Institute of Child Rights and Development, Project Lead

- A conference in 2017 to explore the 21st century challenge of climate change and its connection with children's rights to highlight children not only as victims but also children as change agents

Connecting the child participation and child protection fields: Olivia Lecoufle, Save the Children Canada, and Laura Wright, Right to Play, Project Leads

- Conference materials made available on the ICPNC website (<http://icpnc.org/publications-and-resources/conference-on-child-participation-and-child-protection-resources/>) and continuing to advance communications on this topic through reporting ongoing projects, disseminating findings, connecting with collaborators, and mapping participation activities around the world

Special Issue of the *International Journal of Human Rights*: Tara Collins, Ryerson University, Project Lead

- This special issue provides a valuable mechanism to mobilize the knowledge presented at, and arising from the conference. A call for abstracts has been distributed with final papers due April 30, 2016.