Dear IICRD Community,

This past year, we’ve seen historic, interconnected tides impacting the rights and well-being of children, youth—and us all.

There’s been the early beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, environmental emergencies, racial uprising, global migration, social isolation, and economic insecurity—just to name a few. Huge waves have challenged systems to break down barriers to equality and justice. With all the upheaval, this has also been an exciting time for child rights, as unprecedented numbers of young leaders and activists stand up for vital issues locally and globally. All of this can feel both immense and inspiring.

The International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) has been navigating these changing tides. As young people lead the way, we are pivoting our efforts to support their work. Our 2019-2020 annual report highlights a few of these efforts to use creative art and play-based tools to support children and young people to amplify their voice. With hundreds of children and youth, we marked the milestone of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which IICRD Associate Manuel Manrique calls an “ethical and moral standard that has transformed our relationship with the world’s children.” In step with this pivotal milestone, we also launched a new Strategic Directions and Visual Identity to provide a flexible container to prioritize IICRD’s efforts and resources, while adapting to changing contexts.
These big changes have also given us a moment to pause and rethink what really matters most, both personally and as practitioners. As a ‘bridge-building’ organization, we explored new collaborations with partners to find creative ways to empower young people, while digging into important underlying issues impacting their rights and well-being. Resilience, reconciliation, and renewal emerged as common threads for our work at home in Canada and internationally.

In 2019-2020, IICRD engaged approximately 2,300 children and youth as well as 3,700 adults, including practitioners, parents, community members and Elders from 29 countries. We have just scratched the surface. More than ever, this year has reconfirmed our commitment to listen, learn, and do more both within our organization and through striving to follow the transformative leadership of young people themselves.

**We encourage you to read about our project highlights and to click through links to learn more about our collective efforts in 2019-2020.** Let’s continue to navigate these challenging, interconnected tides together to support the social and environmental justice so needed in the world today.

In Friendship,

Vanessa Currie
Executive Director

Kate Butler
Chair of the Board
Last year, our participatory research, intergenerational learning, knowledge sharing and partnership building activities engaged:

6,014 participants, including:

- **2,378 children and youth**, especially from equity-seeking groups (e.g. Indigenous, migrant, refugee, newcomer)

- **3,636 adults**, including practitioners, community members, academics, parents, and Elders

- **In 29 countries**, including project geographic scope:
  
  Canada, USA, Mexico, Egypt, Romania, Switzerland, Jordan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Albania, Greece, Moldova, Myanmar, India, Lebanon, Croatia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, China, Scotland, Brazil, South Africa, Benin, Togo, Mali & Cameroon
Through these efforts, we bolstered child rights in communities, schools and organizations in several impact areas. In particular, our projects have contributed to and influenced several Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)—a widely ratified global agreement which has grounded and guided our work for more than 25 years.

Last year, we also contributed to several Sustainable Development Goals (2015), the global blueprint for peace and prosperity for people now and in the future, including: Gender Equality (Goal 5), Climate Action (Goal 13) and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (Goal 16).

**Realizing Child Rights in 2019-2020**

- Child Protection - Articles 19, 31, 13, 22, 12, 21, 22, 39, & 42
- Best Interests - Article 3, 27
- Play - Articles 31, 22, & 5
- Climate Action - Articles 24 & Article 4
- Children on the Move - Articles 22 & 10
- Setting up or Joining Groups - Article 15
- Identity, Culture and Language - Article 30, 21,40
- Child Rights Education & Participation - Article 2, 12, 13, 29 & 42

"Rather than focusing on parents as ‘duty bearers’ of rights, we need to shift the focus of parents as ‘dream protectors.’"

- Angie Mapara-Osachoff, IICRD PlayScope Facilitator and IICRD Board Director
Children are not waiting for adults to create systems change, they are disrupting institutions and leading movements locally, nationally, and internationally. We are stepping-up as an ally in this work. We are doing so by stepping in as listener, supporter, connector, and relationship broker, navigating and adapting our role as child-led strategies emerge.

“I feel more motivated and courageous now after completing my journey.” - Youth Leader, YouCreate, Egypt
Creating Change through the Arts

- **YouCreate’s Art-Kit & E-Modules launched** – wrapping up a two-year participatory action research project with Terre des hommes (Tdh) in Iraq and Egypt. With the objectives of strengthening wellbeing, resilience, and leadership among youth, YouCreate has positively impacted young people by breaking down barriers through bringing youth, their families and communities together through the arts.

In 2020, YouCreate expanded in close to a dozen Tdh country offices partners including Greece and Ukraine (check out this video about implementing YouCreate in the Ukraine).

Convening Voices

- Building on several regional and international gatherings, IICRD formalized a partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation and the Children’s Environmental Rights Initiative (CERI) to co-host a virtual child, youth and intergenerational consultation on children’s right to a healthy environment for the North American region. Last year, IICRD co-created a concept note to set the stage for consultations with young people in Spring 2021.

- IICRD collaborated with British Columbia’s Climate Action Secretariat to engage 32 youth (ages 13-20), including Indigenous, settler and new immigrant young people, from remote and urban areas across the province to explore what climate resilience means to them. In-person and virtual focus groups with Elders helped to inform and shape a draft activity guidebook for youth-led groups and educators.
SUPPORTING AMPLIFYING CHILD-LED ACTIONS

The students also helped to mark the 30th birthday of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), including sending postcards to the Premier of British Columbia.

“It was impactful to hear conversations between children about when their rights were not respected, especially in the case of their peers fleeing to Canada from war-torn countries. This was an eye-opening experience for children and laid the foundation for embedding rights discussions into classrooms.” - Val Cortes, Child Thrive facilitator & IICRD Associate

Children learn about child rights in Victoria, Canada through IICRD’s Child Thrive workshops

• **Child Thrive** - Through puppets, art and games, hundreds of young children participated in Child Thrive workshops from three schools in Victoria, British Columbia. Together, they learned about their rights and how to respect them – whether on the playground or at the kitchen table.

• **PlayScope** tapped into the unique capacities of newcomer children, especially from refugee backgrounds, to cultivate community while contributing to their own health. Intergenerational workshops, delivered in partnership with the Inter-Cultural Association (ICA) of Greater Victoria, brought more than 150 children and families together through play-based activities and community meals to build resilience, belonging, knowledge, safety and well-being.

“These playful sessions opened up some important, sensitive issues affecting parent-child relationships of newcomer families. We are continuing these conversations in our programming.” - Staff, Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
By working in the field on projects that support community-based system change, we continue to evolve and learn by serving, leading and learning with children facing adversity the world over. This practice allows us to expand our knowledge resources and promising practice materials; strengthen connections through nature, art and play in research; build relational research projects; and, adapt research to the cultural and regional context of every partnership.

“I was hugely inspired by the young people that we met, and with the power of just sitting with people on the land to hear their stories of what was needed, and what could be.”

- Justin Thundersky, IICRD Associate and Facilitator for 3 Nations visioning
Fishing camps, baby naming ceremonies and land-based cultural camps were some of the important sites where the IICRD team engaged more than 650 community members, including children, youth, Elders and practitioners across six remote communities – spanning the 3 Nations situated in the farthest reaches of Northern British Columbia and into the Yukon. The team supported the 3 Nations’ Stikine Wholistic Working Group to imagine what holistic supports for children and families could look like for the next decade and beyond.

Through an innovative partnership with IndigenEYEZ, our team co-facilitated Snaqsilxw, a land-based camp bringing together 60+ Indigenous youth leaders between the ages of 15-29 who were joined by 20+ adult educators, facilitators, Elders and allies to lift youth up. During Snaqsilxw Camp, participants had opportunities to be creative and to connect with each other, the land and the culture.

IndigenEYEZ and IICRD created a safe place at camp and online to explore, share experiences, and dialogue about environmental justice actions, culture and ceremony. The team also reflected on Participatory Action Research from an Indigenous perspective.

"Every place has land-based strengths; stories and teachings are stronger when the stories go with the place; spirits in that place get happy when they hear their own stories." - Elder, Snaqsilxw Camp

"IndigenEYEZ and IICRD were able to form the beginning of a new network of Indigenous environmental leaders, and strengthen cross-organizational pollination, collaboration and support. The power of the ripple effect cannot be underestimated. We share one skin. Snaqsilxw."

-IICRD’s Sarah Sandy and Vanessa Currie
Listening and Learning with Young People

- Teaming up with Child Protection Hub for South East Europe, IICRD started a regional research project in 7 countries to explore children’s perspectives on social and gender norms impacting school related gender-based violence, and the potential role of children in challenging these social challenges.

- A global research project was initiated last year to hone in on case examples from the lived-experiences of young people who have participated in children’s clubs. The study, in collaboration with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, explores how Children’s Clubs around the world can support child protection and child safeguarding.

"Case studies from children’s clubs around the world highlight how children are engaging in innovative ways to increase safety for young people in their schools and communities. In 2020, we will facilitate online art and play based participatory discussions with children’s club members to learn more about children’s perspectives on strengths, challenges, and recommendations for their meaningful participation."

- IICRD’s Laura Wright
In a four-country study in Benin, Togo, Mali and Cameroon, IICRD used participatory research tools with children and families to assess the effectiveness, sustainability and transmissibility of child protection interventions used by Kinderrechte Afrika and implemented by seven local partners. Approximately 500 people were involved in the study, including 285 children.

Long-standing partner, Right to Play, commissioned IICRD to conduct a mid-term evaluation study of its Jam Suka project. The project focuses on the protection needs of crisis affected and vulnerable children, especially girls, in three regions of Mali, Africa (Kayes, Sikasso and Mopti) with support from Global Affairs Canada. Through surveys and focus groups, the IICRD team engaged close to 1,700 participants, including more than 1,000 children and youth. Learning from the evaluation helped to inform strategies and activities for the remainder of the project.

"While a very intensive evaluation process, I am pleased that the evidence base generated from this four-country study will help to influence policies for respecting child rights through regional discussions in West Africa." - IICRD's Armel Oguniyi
In order to shift the child protection paradigm and scale child centred practices, we are expanding practitioner capacities to see and approach their work differently. We are strengthening capacity by immersing practitioners into rights-based approaches that support children to lead and reach their full potential.

“Everything that involves creativity, will always arouse the motivation and the enthusiasm of young people - precisely why the YouCreate methodology is an argument for transforming the ideas and initiatives of young people into products that express their voice.” - Youth worker, Orhei, Moldova
In partnership with Royal Roads University and Child Frontiers, IICRD initiated conversations to co-create an accredited graduate certificate: Child Protection to Wellbeing: Critical Perspectives on Supporting Child and Family Focused Policy and Programming in a Complex World will fill a gap in the current broad field of child protection, offering child-focused professionals the opportunity to critically reflect on theories and practice for creating positive change with children (up to 18 years old), youth (18-24 years old), their families, communities, organizations and nations. The Certificate is intended to launch in Fall 2021.

"It has been such a pleasure to work with fabulous people from International Institute for Child Rights and Development and Child Frontiers on the creation of a new, innovative and much needed graduate certificate entitled From Child Protection to Wellbeing. Grounded in real life global expertise, the team at IICRD have brought critical insight into the development of this program and ensured a child-centred approach is embedded in the curriculum." - Dr. Kathleen Manion, Associate Professor, Royal Roads University
Learning to be an Adult Ally

- **Learning to be an Adult Ally** - To amplify YouCreate’s Art-Kit, IICRD facilitated a training retreat with 21 practitioners from around the world. A **Project Management Guide** was created to help staff understand YouCreate and how they can support youth and colleagues to develop a strong project. The team also prepared a **Capitalization Report** to highlight the current state of arts-based programming for young people impacted by migration and adversity worldwide.

Up-skilling Practitioner Capacity

- The Greater Victoria Teachers Association invited IICRD to facilitate a workshop as part of a professional development day for 400 educators. The experiential workshop engaged 15 educators to **explore the latest research, IICRD’s local-global project case examples, and play-based strategies to strengthen the resilience, safety and wellbeing for newcomer students.**

“The training had a two-dimensional impact on me. Personally, it was an update of the skills to work in a team, of approaching processes and things creatively, of establishing connections and of evaluating and re-evaluating my potential. As a youth worker, on the other hand, it was an opportunity to supplement my arsenal of knowledge with something new and a beautiful challenge to look for wise ways of adapting this methodology to my work with young people.” - Youth worker, Orhei, Moldova
SUSTAINING: ENSURING IICRD HAS A STRONG FOUNDATION

Building a strong child rights movement requires investing in our own organizational wellness. To do this, we focused on building resilient governance, financial, and learning scaffolding with a regular learning cycle this year.

“I’m excited to see how all of these changes unfold in the coming years. In collaboration with others, IICRD can play an important role to transform child rights and to step boldly into leading with children and youth to create a better future for us all.” - Chair of the Board, Kate Butler
SUSTAINING: ENSURING IICRD HAS A STRONG FOUNDATION

IICRD staff, Associates and Board put our minds together to reimagine what we could contribute to children and our world—while still staying true to the values and relationships built up over more than two decades. After a year-long process, IICRD launched its 2020-2023 Strategic Directions including our renewed vision, approach and guiding principles to focus on leading with children to transform our world.

Aligning with these renewed steps, staff, Board and Associates worked with graphic designer, Pablo Munoz, to create a new visual identity for IICRD.

Our Five-Year Memorandum of Understanding with Royal Roads University was renewed this year. This collaboration focuses on co-delivering applied research, professional education and community-engaged learning initiatives.

In the IICRD logo a young person and adult are walking together, with the young person taking the lead. They walk together to highlight the importance of intergenerational collaboration across an atmospheric landscape that highlights our work locally, nationally, and internationally. The weaving lines emphasize the interconnected and interdisciplinary nature of our work in relationship with young people, families, communities, and across disciplines and sectors. The golden hue of the sky symbolizes the warmth and strength inherent in our relationships with one another, while the blue and green of the land symbolize the importance of our relationship with the natural world.
IICRD welcomed three new Associates this year to deepen our skill-sets and experience to deliver projects and initiatives with and for the well-being young people.

Our Leadership Team also supported eight students from three universities (Royal Roads University, University of Victoria and St. Francis Xavier University) through community-engaged learning courses. Students supported IICRD with our new visual identity as well as through projects, including coding children's artwork and conducting research for practitioner tools.

IICRD is tapping into the wealth of experience on our Board through welcoming a new Chair and three new Directors. We also fostered big ideas, created new collaborations and strengthened the financial sustainability of our organization through Board Committees.
As a learning-focused organization, IICRD has reflected on several lessons last year through our programs, applying our guiding principles, and through navigating the changing global tides.

- **Engaging processes grounded in nature, art and play can help to foster safe, creative (and fun!) spaces to "dig into" underlying and sensitive issues.** Simple tools like clay, art, puppets, yarn and balloons can help children, youth and adults to "get out of their comfort zone". Difficult conversations impacting children’s rights such as spanking/ corporal punishment, child neglect, violence against children, trauma and pain-based behaviours (e.g. addictions) were initiated and carefully supported through our programs.

- **Intergenerational partnerships, and the growth and learning that can occur across generations, positively impacts everyone.** Over the last year, IICRD worked with young people and families who are extremely resilient and from equity-seeking backgrounds, living on Turtle Island/Canada and around the world. We strive to learn with and from them, adjusting in real-time.

Through intergenerational partnerships with Indigenous youth, for example, we shifted our focus to meet youth where they were at, and worked as a team – emphasizing collective learning rather than individual projects. By creating a collective initiative for youth leaders to be involved in, we were able to build shared meaning around community-based action projects, practice storytelling, listening, strategizing, and basic planning skills.
Key Lessons - 2019-2020:

- **Investing in relationships, partnerships and collaborations is essential, but is also a significant unseen commitment of time, energy and resources.** As a bridge-building organization, one of IICRD’s strengths over many decades has been to bring diverse organizations together (youth-led, community-based, governments, academic, foundations). We also recognize that it is critical to ensure that young people have front-line, on-the-ground supports in place through project partnerships.

Collaboration is needed to support the complex and urgent challenges facing young people today. Yet, it takes a significant amount of effort to build partnerships based on trust, shared values and action. As an organization, we are learning that we need to be more intentional about the time/financial support needed to foster meaningful collaborations that create lasting change across sectors/systems.
IICRD 2019-2020 Year-End Summary*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12 mths ending March 31, 2020</th>
<th>12 mths ending March 31, 2019</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td>Capital/Fixed Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td>68,516</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Invested in Fixed Assets</td>
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<td>Accumulated Operating Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiscal Year Net Revenue Over Expenses (below)</td>
<td>10,515</td>
<td>1,924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minus Amortization on Capital/Fixed Assets</td>
<td>(145)</td>
<td>(228)</td>
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<td>Total Net Assets at End of Fiscal Year</td>
<td>18,230</td>
<td>7,860</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>Project Funding Revenue**</td>
<td>407,353</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td></td>
<td>408,988</td>
<td>276,965</td>
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<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Project Costs</td>
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<td>Administrative Costs</td>
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<td>Excess of Income Over Expenses (Surplus)</td>
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<td>Foreign Exchange Gain</td>
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<td>403</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiscal Year Net Revenue over Expenses</td>
<td>10,515</td>
<td>1,924</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Based on Financial Statements as reviewed by Accountants Schell & Associates for March 31, 2019
Based on Financial Statements as reviewed by MacDonald & Murphy Inc. for March 31, 2020

**Key Project Funders from 2019-2020, to whom we are grateful:**

- 3 Nations
- Capital Regional District
- Child Protection Hub for South East Europe
- Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children
- Kinderrechte Africa
- Province of British Columbia, Climate Action Secretariat
- Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Community Grants and Gaming
- Right to Play
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
- Terre des hommes
- Tide Canada Initiative/Catherine Donnelly Foundation
- Victoria Foundation
We believe that our vision can be achieved more effectively by working with others.

Working with non-governmental organizations, universities, governments, foundations and others means, we combine our expertise to advance our collective efforts to lead with young people to transform our world.

Collaborating Organizations & Funding Partners
Royal Roads University - Affiliated with IICRD

Beausoleil First Nation
Capital Regional District
Catherine Donnelly Foundation
Children’s Environmental Rights Initiative (CERI)
Child Protection Hub for South East Europe
Child Rights Academic Network (CRAN)
City of Surrey (MyZone)
CPC Learning Network
David Suzuki Foundation
Equitas
Four Directions
Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children
Greater Victoria School District

Greater Victoria Teacher Association
IndigenEYEZ
Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
International Child Protection Network of Canada
Kinderrechte Afrika
Landon Pearson Resource Centre for Study of Childhood and Children’s Rights
Ministry of Environment (Climate Action Secretariat)
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)
Ministry of Community Grants and Gaming (BC Government)
Pablo Muñoz Design
Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School
Raffi Foundation for Child Honouring
Representative for Children and Youth of British Columbia

Right to Play
Ryerson University
Social Sciences Humanities Research Council of Canada
St. Francis Xavier University
Terre des hommes
Three Nations
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
UNICEF
UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment
University of Victoria
Our Team

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Angie Mapara-Osachoff, Vice President
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Bill Meyers, Director
Mary Clancy, Director
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Shelley Jones, Director

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Vanessa Cook, Executive Director
Kathryn Harnett, Finance Officer
Laura Lee, Director, Research and Innovation
Elaina Mack, Director, Impact and Engagement
Micheal Montgomery, Director, Nature and Play-based Facilitation
Armel Oguniyi, Director, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
Laura Wright, Director, Participatory Methodologies

Student Volunteers/Placements
Patrick Falle
Christian Routledge
Maggie Messer
Alison McKnight

Taryn Smith (Incoming)
Kayanne Thompson (Incoming)
Medina Empey (Incoming)
Rachel Wong (Incoming)
PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIPS

OUR THANKS

Associates
Chancelor Amos
Sabrina Bonfonti
Emilia Bretan
Ilan Cerna- Turoff
Michele Cook
Philip Cook
Valeria Cortes
Amos Dembele (Incoming)
Cheryl Heykoop
Victor Karunan
Maureen Maloney
Kathleen Manion
Manuel Manrique
Rebeccah Nelems
Rajendra Parajuli
Derek Peterson
Gary Robinson
Malia Robinson (Incoming)
Sarah Sandy
Neveen Saied (Incoming)
Lee Sentes
Jean Sewanou
Richard Wamimbi
Justin Young

Advisors
Stuart Hart
Mike Wessells
Bonnie Nastasi
Sue Bennett
Bill White
Natasha Blanchet-Cohen
Neil Howard
Suzanne Williams
Nigel Fisher

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Imagine what it would look like if children co-created the world around us.

The International Institute for Child Rights and Development sees the potential to transform child rights and step boldly into leading with children and youth to create a better future for us all.

Our vision is for children and youth to play a central role in shaping the present and future, with adults offering the support required, so that, in collaboration, children and adults can strengthen and transform our world. To achieve this vision, we believe the approach to children’s rights needs to change. Our approach focuses on evolving and learning by: serving, listening, leading, and learning with children facing adversity around the world.

As a small, nimble and innovative Canadian-based charity affiliated with Royal Roads University, we draw on diverse partners and intergenerational practitioners by working with communities to ensure that young people have the support required to reach their full potential. We do this through wide-ranging projects, in Canada and around the world, focused on participatory research, applied evaluation, professional education and community capacity building initiatives.
LEAD WITH CHILDREN.
Transform Our World.

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