Our Inspiration

- The CBA Child Rights Toolkit was inspired by the need to improve children’s access to justice in Canada.
- It is for professionals working in legal and administrative decision-making who want to better understand and implement a child rights based approach in practice and strengthen their advocacy for children.
- Over three years in the making.
- Involved over 30 legal and other professionals across Canada and various CBA National sections.
Project of the National CBA Children's Law Committee through its UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Sub-committee

**Toolkit Steering Committee:** Co-chairs: Donna Martinson and Caterina Tempesta, and Dale Hensley Q.C., Christian Whalen, Sarah Dennene, Jennifer Shaften

**Others sub-committee members:** Marv Bernstein, Gavin Kotze, Cheryl Milne, Sarah Rauch, Bianca Suciu

**Lead Writer/Consultant:** Suzanne Williams

**CBA support:** Inika Anderson, Gaylene Schellenberg and Lorraine Prezeau

**Funder:** CBA Law for the Futures Fund

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Access to Justice for Children Conference: Child Rights in Action

- Presented by the Continuing Legal Education Society of B.C. in Collaboration with the CBABC Children’s Law Committee
- Many thanks to CLEBC for supporting the Toolkit by:
  - Making it the central theme of this two day conference
  - By making this official Toolkit Launch available to all by free webcast.
  - A special thanks to our program lawyer Teresa Sheward
- Many thanks to the Conference Advisory Committee which has been working since October, and is broad based with youth participation
“Child Rights” are human rights for children

Timely as Canada celebrates

- the 35th anniversary of the Charter, which recognizes that children, like adults, are entitled to the equal benefit and protection of the law without discrimination
- And to all protections found in the Charter and other domestic and international laws

Special Considerations for Children require a unique rights-based approach

- And Canada is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most widely recognized human rights instrument in history
- It recognizes that just identifying children’s rights is not enough:
  
  Special considerations apply to children that require a unique, rights-based approach to implement them
Four Broad Topics covered by both the Toolkit and our Conference

- **Child Rights Fundamentals** - provides the fundamental framework of child rights including where they come from, what they are, who is responsible and the status of child rights in Canada.

- **The System: Cross-Cutting Themes** - outlines available systemic child rights supports and tools and in particular independent human rights institutions and child rights impact assessments.

- **The Child: Cross-Cutting Themes** - highlights subjects that may be applicable to the child or a group of children you work with that transcend all areas of the law, such as Charter rights, best interests of the child, child participation, legal representation and freedom from all forms of violence.

- **Legal Areas** - provides four steps to implement a child rights based approach in practice as well as child rights information and law in specific legal domains such as child protection, family law, youth criminal justice, and immigration.

Keynote Conference Addresses

Today - May 11th
**Bernard Richard** - B.C. Representative for Children and Youth:
**The Convention as Foundational to Competency in Work with Children**

Tomorrow - May 12th
**Cormac O-Dwyer and Tu Wilson**, trans rights advocates
**Child Rights in Action: Lived Experiences of Young People**