



*“Innovative research,
education and
capacity development
that builds on
strengths to advance
peace, dignity and
respect for children
and our world.”*

Annual Report

2007-2008



International Institute for
Child Rights and Development
(IICRD)





Title Page Photos

1. Girls fishing in Zanzibar, Africa, 2006
2. Coast Salish Youth waiting to enter stadium, Commonwealth Games, Victoria, B.C. 1994

Whether working to equip local communities in Southeast Asia to improve support for vulnerable children affected by trafficking and migration, assisting governments in North America to transform state child protection systems from risk to strength-based in support of Indigenous child rights, helping create more child centred paediatric practices internationally, or working with local stake holders to combat IT enabled child exploitation, *IICRD applies our values, builds on cultural strengths and helps move child rights from rhetoric to reality.*

About IICRD

The International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) is a non-profit charitable organization based in the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria in Victoria, Canada, devoted to advancing the quality of life and development of vulnerable children around the globe. We have been working on issues affecting children's lives locally, nationally, regionally and internationally since 1994.

Our Mission:

To enhance the capacity of children's inherent human dignity, nurture their sense of belonging to the natural and human environment, and reinforce justice at all levels for the implementation of children's rights.

Our Approach:

IICRD brings children's rights to life through innovative research, education and capacity building that implements children's rights and draws on the strengths of children, their families, communities and culture.

We use our innovative approach to systems change to help communities and local organizations/governments develop creative strategies to complex problems; and ensure that children's rights become a reality both within the daily lives of the children who need them most, and the social, economic, and political systems that affect them.

IICRD has worked within Canada and internationally in partnership with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), national and local governments, child and youth led organizations, and professionals from various disciplines and regions for the past 14 years. IICRD is able to draw on this extensive network of experts and practitioners to tailor expertise to the initiatives it undertakes.

Our Compass:

- Dignity
- Belonging
- Justice

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2007 - 2008 continues a pattern of growth for IICRD as demand for our strength - based, systems change approach to children's rights continues to grow within our community, International non-government Organizations (INGOs), private foundations, governments and United Nations partners. This has created new opportunities to apply our unique approach to support for the human rights of children through research, education and capacity development programs, such as:

- *The Unity Circle*: Community interventions in support of Iraqi refugee children and their families in Jordan which has involved working with Iraqi refugee children and parents in Jordan to develop child-centred programs to meet their self-identified needs;
- *YouthScape*: Promotion of meaningful youth engagement in strengthening community resilience in five Canadian cities through participatory action research and capacity building;
- *Child Rights Education for Professionals (CRED-Pro)*: Child rights training for health care and early child care professionals in Latin America, Eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa; and
- *The River of Unity*: A historical partnership between the Nenan-Dane_Zaa Deh Zona Family Services and the British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development supporting 14 Indigenous communities in assuming control of child welfare services in Northeastern British Columbia.

The increased demand for our services has also allowed us to explore innovation in targeting emerging global child rights threats such as internet enabled child sexual exploitation through the *Child Protection Partnership (CPP)*, a three year partnership between IICRD, Microsoft, the RCMP's National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC), CIDA, UNICEF and local partners.

Our growth has also allowed us to hire new team members to reinforce our core capacity and we are pleased to welcome Bruce Lund, IICRD Chief Operating Officer (COO); Cheryl Heykoop, Project Officer; Jorge Salazar, Community Youth Facilitator (YouthScape); and Lana Kenderdine, Financial Officer.

Increased growth and demand for services bring their own challenges however, and three areas on which we will be focusing our collective energies include:

- Critically examining the internal reinforcement of our values: dignity, belonging, and justice, to ensure these values are better reflected and systematically reinforced in all areas of our organization;
- Further developing our conceptual and operational tools in creating sustainable child rights systems change. By working in partnership with children, their families and their communities, we want to ensure that these tools can be used to target unique child rights challenge and be applied across diverse cultural settings; and
- Assessing the impact of our programs through a process of drawing on and refining global good practice in child-centred monitoring and evaluation tools.

Message from the Executive Director

To this end, IICRD will host our next *Child Rights in Practice (CRIP)* training on the theme of *Measuring the Impact of Services for Children* in Whistler, BC, in May, 2009.

We look back on a year filled with deep and wide organizational learning in meeting some of the great local and global challenges for children, and look forward to working with our partners, children included, in the year ahead.

Respectfully,

Dr. Philip Cook



Message from the Chief Operating Officer

It is hard to believe that four months has already passed since I had the good fortune to join IICRD as its first Chief Operating Officer. IICRD has proven to be an exciting and interesting place to work.

IICRD is not altogether brand new to me as I first met Philip and Michele Cook when we collaborated in organizing a number of conferences focusing on children and families, and later collaborated on several youth projects. That was the late 1980's and early 1990's. While I played a partnership role in those days, I am now a full time member of the IICRD family. It has been easy to feel the dedication and enthusiasm of each of the team members as they mix and match their respective areas of expertise to take on new challenges.

I feel privileged to join an organization during a period of growth when it is accepting new creative challenges to advance the spirit and intent of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In this transition, my creative challenge is to create the operational framework that allows our entire team to effectively work together while undertaking diverse initiatives. It's a wonderful opportunity.

Bruce Lund joined IICRD after a long career with the Government of Canada, focusing on social justice issues including multi-culturalism, human rights, the status of women, disabled person's participation and Aboriginal issues.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Lund". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bruce Lund



Young people from across Canada celebrate at the first YouthScape National Learning Gathering, Montreal, PQ, November 2007

Highlights from 2007-2008

IICRD's "Child Participation in Family Justice Processes" collaboration with the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC wins the Best Programming category awarded by the International Association for Continuing Legal Education (ACLEA) for Professional Excellence (top prize of the category).

The Triple "A" Child Rights and Community Development approach is applied in four regions of the world on issues ranging from support for Iraqi refugees in Jordan to Indigenous child welfare reform in Canada, with child and youth participatory research driving innovative change to the child protection system.

YouthScape is launched nationally in five Canadian Communities: Halifax, Rivière des Prairies, Thunder Bay, Saskatoon, and Calgary.

The Child Protection Partnership (CPP) is launched by the Honourable Beverley Oda, Minister of International Cooperation, in Toronto on February 22, 2008.

IICRD co-hosts the International Child Protection and Rights Consortium's symposium on culture and child protection with Oxford University, University of California at Davis and UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC), at the University of California at Davis, March 9 - 11, 2008.



Focus Group with Children, Tamil Nadu India, 2006



Children playing, Tamil Nadu India, 2006

Addressing IT enabled child sexual exploitation in the developing world.

IICRD Making a Difference Internationally

Child Protection Partnership

The Child Protection Partnership (CPP) is a unique multi-sector collaboration comprised of organizations committed to protecting children and their rights from exploitation enabled by worldwide use of information technology (IT).

Over the next three years and across 2-3 regions in the developing world, CPP will leverage technology and innovation across public and private sectors to support law enforcement, other civil society actors, and children to effectively prevent and address IT enabled child sexual exploitation. IICRD will be CPP's executing agency and together with Microsoft, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC), UNICEF and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will contribute knowledge, tools and networks to CPP.

Funders: Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA)

Length of Project: 2007 - 2010

Location(s): Latin America, South East Asia with additional regions coming on at a later date

Steering Committee Partners: *Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)*, the International Institute for Child Rights & Development (IICRD), *Microsoft Corporation*, the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police's National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC)*, and the *United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*.

Additional resource experts and local partners will join CPP as it moves forward

IICRD Project Team: Suzanne Williams, Philip Cook with Chris Yeoman joining the team in May 2008



February 22, 2008 Announcement in Toronto: Roger Martin (RCMP NCECC), Hon. Beverley Oda (Canadian Minister of International Cooperation), Cathy Guthrie (UNICEF), Suzanne Williams (IICRD), Paula Knight, (Microsoft)

Since 2003, Microsoft has invested over \$10 million in the CETS program, which has been implemented in eight countries and has led to offender arrests and the rescue of children.

Microsoft, as well as the other steering committee partners including the RCMP NCECC, UNICEF, CIDA and IICRD will contribute expertise in technology, law enforcement, child rights and protection, human rights, and international development to guide the broader vision of CPP to:

- Share the latest in knowledge and tools with law enforcement and related stakeholders to better equip them to address IT enabled child sexual exploitation;
- Connect vulnerable children and populations to relevant information, protection, reporting and recovery services; and,
- Support collaboration between law enforcement, civil society, and vulnerable populations to address IT enabled child exploitation through a systems approach that bridges the communication gaps between protective systems (i.e. family, community, civil society actors) that influence the healthy development of children and their communities.

“Canada is strongly committed to reducing all types of child abuse, here at home and around the world. We are working with partners to reduce child exploitation, to support rule of law and to implement international human rights frameworks for children in a more efficient and effective way.”

The Honourable Beverley Oda,
Minister of International Cooperation
February 22, 2008

Taking a rights based approach that furthers respect for international human rights in the context of children’s lives, CPP builds on Microsoft’s Child Exploitation Tracking System (CETS), case management software that allows police agencies to share and analyze investigation information related to internet-facilitated child sexual exploitation offences.



Experiential Activity (Unity Circle) with Iraqi children and facilitators, Amman, Jordan, 2008

International Child Protection and Rights Consortium (ICPRC)

Innovative Rights Based Approaches to Child Protection

The International Child Protection and Rights Consortium (ICPRC) was created in 2006 to bring together social scientists and governments, UN agencies and NGOs working to bring about broad based systems change in support of child protection.

The purpose of ICPRC is to better understand the impact of children's rights and to support the implementation of child protection policy and programming by strengthening the evidence base. This is achieved through collaborative research, the development of capacity building and monitoring tools, and the study of innovative programming and policy. ICPRC seeks to build on the best of implementation efforts in child rights and protection, while recognizing that new approaches are needed to better ground the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in the context of a child's own lived experience within their peers, family, community and culture.

ICPRC is particularly interested in better linking research, policy and practice around four conceptual themes:

- 1) *Children's own experience* of childhood in relation to risk, protection, and agency;
- 2) Growing *social science understanding* of long term threats to child and adolescent development, and of the various means through which societies can protect their young against such threats;
- 3) An *ecological perspective on childhood* that includes the role of culture and other social systems in child vulnerability and protection; and
- 4) The presence and significance of *the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* in both policy and practice.

Funders: Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA), UNICEF Innocenti Research Center

Length of Project:
2007- 2009 (CIDA Funding)

Location(s): The ICPRC is an international network with case studies of innovation currently in operation in Jordan, Brazil, and Canada.

Partners: ICPRC is a network of individual researchers, universities, governments, UN agencies and NGO's. ICPRC's open membership is currently comprised of:

- Oxford University, Centre for Refugee Studies, UK
- University of California at Davis
- Department of Human and Community Development, USA
- University of Victoria, International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD), Canada
- The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC), Florence, Italy
- Catholic University of Goias
- Department of Anthropology, Brazil
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Save the Children USA, Jordan
- Relief International, Jordan
- Save the Children UK, South East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand

IICRD Project Team:
Philip Cook, Vanessa Currie, Natasha Blanchet-Cohen, Cheryl Heykoop



Child Drawing, Amman, Jordan 2007



Child Drawing, Amman, Jordan 2007

50 leading child protection experts from Canada, USA, England, Brazil, India, Italy, Holland, and Jordan attended a 3-day Symposium March 9-11, 2008 at the University of California at Davis. The Symposium helped to construct bridges between the research community and those who decide government policies and social strategies to protect children. Impact of 'alternative' approaches to protection across systems, cultures and contexts were explored within:

- A regional model of Indigenous child protection governance through community engagement (Canada);
- The development of a child centred protection policy through participatory action research with Iraqi refugee children (Jordan), and
- Child rights councils in promoting good practice in Municipal Guardianship Councils (Brazil).

Key findings

- The CRC and child protection are best addressed within the broad spectrum of human rights. As such, promoting child rights means promoting the rights of all citizens.
- The need for ICPRC to clarify its position as a global resource in better understanding child protection within a rights based perspective that is contextually grounded and to apply a systems approach.

Impact

- Partnerships with governments, UN agencies and international NGOs and national NGOs are providing the platform to identify policy and programming activities to increase child protection within a rights framework, pertinent to the lived realities and socio-cultural environment of children and their families.
- Policies and activities to increase the protection of children within a child rights framework grounded in children's socio-cultural reality have been successfully identified and recommended.
- The report on the UN Study on Violence against Children has become a catalyst for deeper conversations with UNICEF and international organizations regarding the effective inclusion of children's perspectives that adequately account for children's agency within their own protection.

"I was able to express my opinion courageously and frankly." Young Boy from Jordan



Two boys role play risks to young girls, Cambodia, 2007

South East Asia Regional Cooperation in Human Development (SEARCH)

South East Asia Regional Human Development Project (“SEARCH”) is led by Geospatial/Salasan, Four Worlds International and IICRD, and works in partnership with the ASEAN Human Rights Working Group in support of ASEAN’s Vientiane Action Plan (VAP), Forum Asia and UNIAP.

SEARCH is designed to improve legal and institutional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of the rights of children, ethnic minorities and migrant workers in the Southeast Asia region.

Activities

IICRD continues to provide child rights and cultural/strength-based expertise to better supporting children affected by trafficking and migration through community based interventions and the rule of law in seven SE Asian countries.

Specific initiatives undertaken this year include:

- Assisting in the development of a regional child rights strategy for the SEARCH project partners;
- Working with ASEAN to develop a regional women and children’s human rights commission;
- Partnering with UNIAP and Kohn Kaen University, Thailand in hosting a regional human rights training for law enforcement officers and NGOs;
- Helping scale up a community based, multidisciplinary professional team approach to supporting child victims of trafficking in Thailand, and
- Assisting in a regional mapping of ethnic minority children’s rights issues in SE Asia.

Funders: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Length of Project: 2004-2010

Location: Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Timor Leste, Philippines

Partners: Geospatial/Salasan Consulting, Inc. and Four Worlds International, Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism (ASEAN), the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP), Forum Asia

IICRD Project Team: Philip Cook with Suzanne Williams joining the team in 2008



Children at training, Cambodia, 2007

Impact (SEARCH)

- SE Asian Regional anti-trafficking training carried out by UNIAP;
- National Thai training on child rights implementation and planning with the Department of Local Affairs (DLA) and UNICEF staff in partnership with the faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University;
- Regional research on the rights of Ethnic Minorities conducted by Forum Asia;
- Background research paper for the ASEAN Commission on Women and Children's Rights developed, and
- Regional and national working group discussions on the rights of the migrant workers to inform the creation of an ASEAN migrant workers mechanism.

Improving legal and institutional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of the rights of children, ethnic minorities and migrant workers in the Southeast Asia region

Juvenile Justice in the Russian Federation : Improving Services to Youth at Risk (YAR)



Suzanne Williams and Natasha Blanchet Cohen with Stavropol training participants, 2007

The Improving Services to Youth at Risk in the Russian Federation Project (YAR)

is a four-year multi-dimensional project led by AUCC facilitating the social integration of youth at risk and their families. Children's rights are used as the standard by which the provision of services to youth at risk is assessed in the social, judicial, educational and other spheres of public life.

Activities

Participation of three YAR Russian participants, at IICRD's *Child Rights in Practice* session in Victoria, Canada in February, 2007 followed by two, two-day workshops, in Moscow and Stavropol, with representatives from nine YAR pilot locations implementing child rights and youth participation in the context of juvenile justice throughout Russia.

Funders: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Length of Project: 2005-2007

Location: Moscow and Stavropol, Russia

Partners: Association of Universities and Colleges Canada (AUCC), CIDA, Russian NGOs, Russian Experts

IICRD Project Team: Philip Cook, Suzanne Williams, Natasha Blanchet-Cohen

“You should have seen Patimat at the Conference - she was the STAR! The gist of her presentation was: We’ve been working in the field of Child Rights as educators and UNICEF trainers for years, but it were Canadians who taught us to work using the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a practical tool. It is their tools that we are using in our daily work with youth: framing, short film etc. Hats off to you and your colleagues, Suzanne!

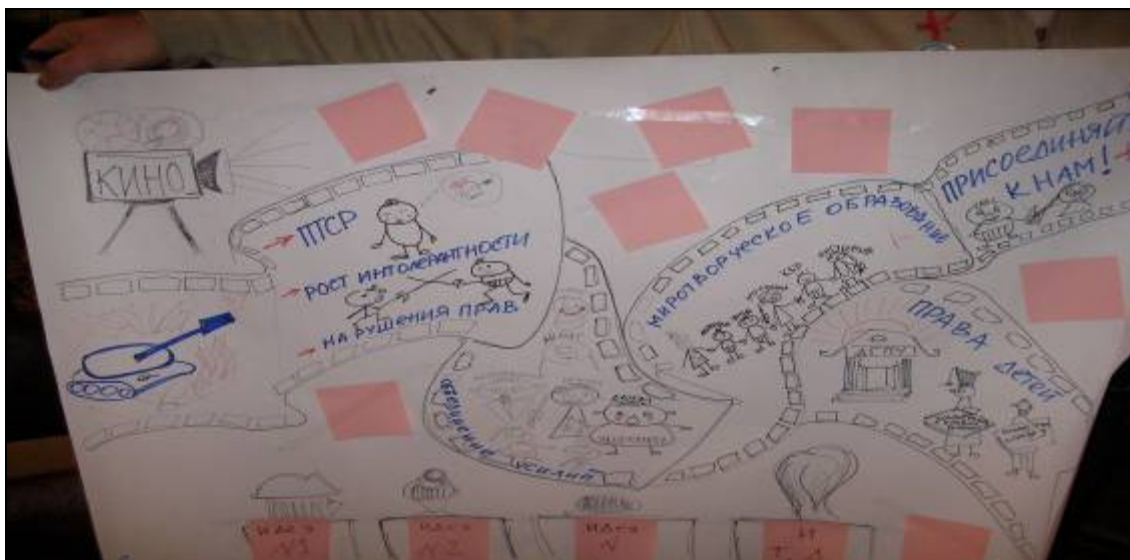
At the Child Rights workgroup session we examined one right - youth participation. Even judges were listening and participating - imagine that! It was a super useful session - you would have been proud of all of us!”

AUCC colleague referencing our Russian colleague trained by IICRD

These trainings built on two three-day trainings led by IICRD in Moscow and Minvody in 2006 and focused on providing participants with concrete tools to address juvenile justice issues in Russia. These were framed within IICRD’s practitioner model (the development of knowledge, self-awareness, skills and support) to establish a rich, interactive learning environment.

Impact

- More than 300 volunteers in Dagestan trained in child rights and participation to promote tolerance between diverse groups of youth at risk;
- IICRD child rights social ecology incorporated into Employment Service of Moscow Oblast project. This technology encourages strong cooperation between systems that support children and we were told this resulted in cooperation between Employment Service, Mozhaik Colony and Commission for Juveniles to bring about such new initiatives as a job fair for youth at risk within the colony;
- Child Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child introduced to 30,000 students at Dagestan University due to the incorporation of IICRD’s Child Rights in Practice training materials being incorporated into University curriculum by Patimat Omarova, who was also promoted to head of her department. A promotion she in part attributes to her expertise being recognized by Canadian colleagues through her invitation to IICRD’s Child Rights in Practice Training), and
- Mapping technology and photo framing technology successfully used by YAR participants with youth at risk to gather perspectives of young people (Moscow and Stavropol).



Stavropol training participants story board creation, 2007



CRED-Pro team at planning retreat, March 2008

Child Rights Education for Professionals (CRED-PRO)

Developing and providing educational programs on the human rights of children to professionals working with and for children

Child Rights Education for Professionals (“CRED-PRO”)

is an international initiative endorsed by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. It is devoted to developing and providing educational programs on the human rights of children to professionals working with and for children in partnership with professional associations and other key organizations worldwide.

CRED-PRO is intended to foster a critical mass of respect for children, their needs, their rights and their best interests among and through professionals who, by virtue of their expertise, leadership and acknowledged value, influence the lives of children, their families, and communities. CRED-PRO is currently focused on the health professions/professionals and working through partnerships with the American Academy of Pediatrics, Academy of Social Paediatrics (UK), Canadian Paediatric Society, Public Health Agency Canada, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO),

Funders: The Oak Foundation (Geneva, Switzerland) & Bernard van Leer Foundation (The Hague, The Netherlands)

Length of Program: 2005-2010 (funded); intended to be continuous in development and application

Location: This is a multi-nation/region program. IICRD is the management and coordinating center. Presently, CRED-PRO initiatives/programs exist or are being planned in Latin America (i.e. Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay); South/Central Eastern Europe (i.e., Turkey and 7 surrounding countries); South Africa; Tanzania; British Columbia and Canada; South East Asia.

Partners: Partners are professional associations, university centers, and child focused agencies, including but not limited to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, PAHO, Education International, the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), the International School Psychology Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, the European Society for Social Paediatrics, FLACSO (Facultad Latino Americana de Ciencias Sociales), ALAPE (the Latin America Pediatric Association); International Children’s Centre (Bilkent University, Ankara, TURKEY; representing organizations in 12 nations), the Children’s Institute (University of Cape Town, South Africa), the Children’s Environmental Research Group (CERG; City University of New York -CUNY), Centre for Child Rights Law (Pretoria University, South Africa) and the Institute for Dispute Resolution (School of Law, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada).

Project Team: Stuart Hart, Gerison Lansdown, Gary Robinson, Philip Cook, Cheryl Heykoop

(CRED-PRO cont'd)

the International Children's Centre (Turkey), the Children's Institute (University of Cape Town) and the paediatric leadership in British Columbia and Canada to develop and implement child rights education for health professionals in Latin America, South Africa, South/Central Eastern Europe, and Canada.

To achieve its long term purposes CRED-PRO is:

- Producing and making available an electronically retrievable international resource base of existing educational/training materials on the application of children's rights to professional practice for all relevant professions;
- Producing a child rights foundational module for all professions and extended profession-specific adaptations and advanced practice, policy and research modules with the ability to be adapted to different cultural, economic and social environments;
- Developing and implementing strategies and systems for ensuring the implementation of child rights education for relevant professions at pre-service preparation and continuing education levels;
- Sharing and implementing the child rights education curricula-modules through the creation of an interdependent network of educators, professionals, governmental, and child advocacy organizations dedicated to the improvement of children's lives;

- Exploring the possibility of an accredited higher-education, doctoral, curriculum that can be implemented on a virtual, online basis, and
- Establishing a network of cooperative centers of higher learning.

In **Tanzania**, CRED-PRO is working with government and civil society to bring child rights education and practices to early child development professionals, service providers and programs with child protection being of particular importance.

In **Latin American**, a regionally adapted Spanish version of the child rights education for child health professionals' curriculum was developed with FLASCO (Facultad Latino Americana de Ciencias Sociales) and local paediatric leaders. This was then used as a platform for a regional training in which leadership in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay took part. To institutionalize a child rights approach in child health preparation, continuing education, policies and practices, national trainings are being planned.

In **South Africa** an innovative model for incorporating child consultation in the development of child rights education has been tested and is to be expanded and

Making a difference in children's lives!

Giving Health Care Professionals the information they need to protect and support Children's Rights!

In **South/Central Eastern Europe** the review of CRED-PRO curriculum has occurred across eight nations to prepare for the development of a regional version as well as several national adaptations to ensure appropriate cultural fit.

In **British Columbia**, Canada, a project team has been established to cooperatively develop programs of child rights in partnership with pediatrics, nursing, family practice medicine and education. Review of medical school curricula in British Columbia is underway to identify opportunities for incorporation of child rights education.

In cooperation with ISPCAN leadership, IICRD and its CRED-PRO program are developing a position paper on 'A Child Rights Approach to Child Protection' which is intended to provide guidance in transforming child protection work by infusing a child rights approach.



IICRD YouthScape team identify their strengths, November 2007

IICRD Making a Difference Nationally

YouthScape: Community Based. Youth Paced.

A National Initiative to Build Resilient Communities through Youth Engagement

www.youthscape.ca

Funders: J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, United Way of Calgary and Area

Length of Program: 2006-2010

Location: Calgary, Thunder Bay, Rivière des Prairies, Saskatoon, Halifax

Partners: HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development, Boscoville 2000, United Way of Thunder Bay, Communities for Children, Child and Youth Friendly Calgary, TakingItGlobal (TIG)

Advisors: Elizabeth Barot, Denise Andrea Campbell, Honourable Landon Pearson, Ginger Gosnell, and Claude Peras

Project Team: Philip Cook, Natasha Blanchet-Cohen, Michele Cook, Jen Wheeler, Jorge Salazar with Elaina Mack joining the team in June 2008.

YouthScape focuses on engaging excluded or marginalized youth to create stronger more resilient communities and long-term, sustainable systems change.

As the Intermediary for YouthScape, IICRD's role is to:

- Support communities in creating sustainable change;
- Create a learning community and a body of knowledge to inform others on best practices to engage disengaged youth; and
- Leverage policy and practice at the level of local government, and across provincial and federal jurisdictions in Canada.

Activities

IICRD has been working with Community Partners and YouthScape's National Advisory to:

Build community capacity, gather key information and create a learning community around youth engagement and systems change;

Co-host YouthScape's first National Learning Forum with other youth led agencies to advance the field of youth engagement;

Gather critical information using developmental evaluation and participatory action research tools;

Develop strategic relationships (incl. Office of the Governor General);

Explore several new areas of learning within the youth engagement and community development field, and

Provide ongoing technical support to community partners.

"Relationships between transit workers and youth make a dramatic turn for the better following YouthScape Calgary's mural project." - Calgary

"Insurance company comes on board to support the youth grants." - Halifax Regional Municipality

"Local businesses invest in young people." - Thunder Bay

"Young people's involvement in IDS gang program cause crime rates to make record drop." - Rivière des Prairies

"Girls in the trade stay off the streets to make a difference for other young people." - Saskatoon



Natasha Blanchet-Cohen engaging youth from Rivière des Prairies, 2007

Impact

A key component of YouthScape has been the participatory action research and developmental evaluation across the sites. Through ongoing activities with local community partners YouthScape National has identified six 'guideposts' to facilitate decision-making and to assess community pathways.

These include:

- Systems change
- Accountability
- Learning community
- Diversity
- Youth leadership
- Strength-based approaches

The guide posts are being used to guide youth led granting and action based projects designed to positively impact disengaged young people and their communities.

New findings around the effectiveness and limitations of steering committees and the impact that young people's involvement in decision making has on changing systems are also emerging.

"Why are we trying to make them fit - should we not be creative so young people can be full participants?" Adult

"It is very much us trying to fit in the adult world, maybe we can make it a blend?" Youth



Community Gathering, Fort Nelson 2008

Learning and Engaging with Triple “A”

Funders: BC Ministry for Child and Family Development, Nenan Dane_Zaa Deh Zona Family Services

Length of Project: 2006-2010

Location: British Columbia

Partners: Deputy Minister, Regional Authorities, Nenan Dane_Zaa Deh Zona Family Services

IICRD Project Partners: Philip Cook, Vanessa Currie, Bill White



Children’s Walking Tour,
West Moberly First Nation, 2008

IICRD Making a Difference Locally

BC Ministry for Child and Family Development (MCFD) and Nenan Dane Zaa Deh Zona

The British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development has seconded IICRD Executive Director Philip Cook to support a 4 year province wide transformation process. Philip Cook co-chaired the Transformation Task Team and helped lead a province wide assessment of *What’s Working for Children, Youth and Families*, and is in the process of assisting with a regional Indigenous service delivery plan in North East British Columbia.

Nenan Dane Zaa Deh Zona Family Services is an organization in accordance with the *BC Societies Act* that has been mandated by all of the Treaty 8 First Nations leadership and urban Aboriginal peoples and organizations of north-eastern British Columbia to create a First Nations and Aboriginal Children and Families Authority in the Northeast region of British Columbia. This historic endeavour will enable First Nations and Aboriginal peoples to reclaim governance and jurisdiction for child protection, guardianship, resources and support services that are presently administered by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

In the fall of 2007, Nenan representatives with the guidance of IICRD commenced the River Of Unity: Triple “A” Community Empowerment Process to learn everything they could about each respective community and establish a better understanding of the needs and solutions to their current child related issues.

The Triple “A” is a three step process (i.e. Assessment, Analysis, Action) that involves engaging and learning from all segments of people from each community to learn their respective strengths, assets, needs, issues, culture and traditional practices, and local community contexts.

This bottom-up -grass-roots approach involves learning in a holistic manner from Elders, leadership, mothers and fathers, children and youth, service organizations and any people who have valuable knowledge to contribute to the development of "Action" plans that will result in positive healthy outcomes for children, youth and families and inform positive policy development.

All information and understanding gathered through this process will inform the development of Nenan's overall service delivery model when the work shifts to Authority readiness criteria planning (circa fall 2008).

The team has been working closely with youth, Elders, and child care providers in these communities to provide training and develop services that build on existing cultural strengths to meet the needs of children and their families.

Impact

- Triple "A" Child Rights and Community Development training with the 14 Nenan Board members;
- Program support implementing the Triple "A" with youth, Elders, family members and child focused professionals in 14 First Nations, Métis and Urban Aboriginal communities in the North Eastern BC, and
- Policy development leading to Nenan assuming greater responsibility for child protection services in designing their own culturally rounded service plan.



Nenan Board Meeting, Fort Nelson First Nation, 2007

Children and Culture



Coast Salish Youth, Common Wealth Games, Victoria, BC 2004

Funders and Partners: Continuing Studies - University of Victoria, Pauquachin First Nation, Vancouver Island Health Authority, B.C. Healthy Communities, Shaw Cable, Coast Salish Employment and Training Society, Continuing Legal Education Society of B.C., Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the University of Northern B.C.

Length of Projects: Ongoing

Location: British Columbia

IICRD Project Partners: Bill White, Andrew Cienski

- Continuing Studies Lectures - University of Victoria
- "Noble Women, Nobility Blankets: Coast Salish Prestige and Power"
- "Qwam Qwum Tun Shqwalawun: The Application of Traditional Values for Coast Salish Child"
- Pauquachin First Nation Coast Salish Nobility Blanket Classes
- Northwest Anthropologic Conference, April 23-26, 2008, Victoria, B.C.
- Gathering of Nations IV/Coast Salish Healthier Communities Gathering"
- Support for Film Documentary "Smoke from his Fires"
- Cultural teachings for Children's Participation in Family Justice Processes: Hear the Child. Continuing Legal Education Society of B. C.
- Evaluation Gathering the Intersection of Traditional Knowledge and Western Scientific Paradigms.
- Bringing Indigenous Knowledge into University of Northern B.C., Prince George, B. C.
- Participation in Royal Canadian Mounted Police, BC Region Commanding Officers Aboriginal Advisory Committee (COAAC)
- Development of "The Creator and the Old Ones are One and the Same" Coast Salish Prayer for UVic Faculty of Education course ED-D591

Drawing on the Strengths of Child Participation and Traditional Cultural Teachings



Role play involving young actors being interviewed by legal professionals at the IICRD-CLEBC education program, November 2007.

Meaningful Child Participation in Family Justice Processes:

Hear the Child

"It is rare for me to find that the information provided by children is not helpful. My experience has been that the discussion with children generates not only useful information, but is frequently a powerful tool in the continuing dialogue with the parents or social workers." *Chief Judge Hugh C. Stansfield, Provincial Court of BC*

Funders: The Law Foundation of BC & BC Attorney General (continued pilot work only)

Length of Project: 2003-2008

Location: British Columbia

Partners: Continuing Legal Education Society of BC

IICRD Project Team: Suzanne Williams, Cheryl Heykoop, Natasha Blanchet-Cohen, Bill White

IICRD began the **Hear the Child Project** in 2003. It focuses on ways to support children and their participation in family justice processes, based on the latest research and practice, and is framed by Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified by Canada) and BC legislation that contemplates hearing and considering the views of children in decisions made about their best interests. Advisors and input from the BC bar, bench, government, academic, non-profit sectors and mental health professions have informed the work which assists legal professionals to modernize their practices in support of children and their families.

In Hear the Child, child participation is about children having an opportunity to share their views on matters that affect them with adults making decisions about their best interests, have their views considered, and to receive information in a way that they understand. Some of the work undertaken by IICRD to date includes:

- **Reviewing the current state of child participation in BC (child protection and custody/access matters) and identifying strengths to build from in support of BC children and families (2003 - 2006)**

The findings are outlined in *Through the Eyes of Young People*, and referenced in the recommendations of the Report of the Family Law Working Group of the BC Justice Review Task Force.

- **Hosting two international experts sessions with Family Justice Stakeholders (2006 and 2007)**

Key Speakers: Dr. Joan Kelly from California; Dr. Jaap Doek, Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child from the Netherlands.

- **Piloting and supporting an ongoing practice in Kelowna, BC to get the views of children before decision-makers in family court processes, and evaluating the process. (Pilot: 2005 - 2006; Evaluation: 2007 - 2008)**
- **Chairing, in cooperation with the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC, a two-day Continuing Legal Education program on Children's Participation in Family Justice Processes. (November 2007)**

Enrollment was exceeded by 15 participants and evaluations rated the CLE good to excellent across the board.

- **Developing a curriculum and resource guide on child rights and participation for legal professionals (2008).**

These draft materials were included in the CLE materials in November 2007 and feedback from consultations with lawyers, judges and social workers has been sought.

IICRD has also undertaken ongoing education and awareness-raising by speaking to various audiences such as Canadian Bar Association sections, fielding regular general and technical inquiries about the Project work and speaking to children, presenting at conferences such as the Provincial Court Judges Conference in May 2007.

Further, IICRD has drafted submissions with respect to the review of the BC Family Relations Act, submitted articles to publications such as Bar Talk and raised awareness about child participation in family justice processes through the media (print and radio).

Impact

When IICRD began this work in BC in 2003 there was very little attention paid to children's participation in family justice processes. However, over the past five years the issue has gained prominence. For example:

- Support for children and their participation in family justice processes (and IICRD's work in this regard) was included in the recommendations of the Family Law Working Group of the BC Justice Review Task Force;
- The Kelowna legal community has embraced and is sustaining the non-therapeutic Hear the Child interview practice to hear from children and support their participation in separation/divorce proceedings where their best interests are determined in custody/access situations;
- Other members of the bar and bench, and families from jurisdictions across BC have expressly called

for a similar Hear the Child practice to be available to children and families in their communities;

- An innovative CLE course on children's participation was successfully launched in partnership with CLEBC in November 2007, awarded one of 15 annual awards in the Best Programming category by the international Association for Continuing Legal Education (ACLEA) for Professional Excellence (top prize of the category) and requested to become a biannual course, and
- Child Participation is one of the key issues being considered in the current review of the BC Family Relations Act.

IICRD Publications

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Blanchet-Cohen, N. (in press). Rainbow Warriors: Environmental Agency of Early Adolescents'. In B. Stevenson and J. Dillon. *International Perspectives on Environmental learning, Participation and Agency*. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers. 28p.

Blanchet-Cohen, N. (2008). Environmental Health of men in the Little Red River Cree Nation. In D. Natcher (Ed.), *Seeing Beyond the Trees: A First nations' Approach to Forest Management*. Ontario: Captus Press, 21p.

Blanchet-Cohen, N. (2008). *Children, agency and violence. In and beyond the UN Study on Violence Against Children*. Working Paper. UNICEF Innocenti Research Center.

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Cook, P. (2008). Understanding the effects of adolescent participation in health programmes. *The International Journal of Children's Rights*, 16, 121 - 139.

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Cook, P., Bristow, S. and Currie, V. (2008). What's Working for Children, Youth and Families in BC, Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD). Victoria, BC: Government of British Columbia.

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White, W. and Cienksi, A., (2008). "We have to come home, the way we were raised" *Gathering of Nations IV Coast Salish News*, Duncan, B.C. Feb. 2008. Vol 8, Issue 1

Williams, S. (2008). "Perspective of the Child in Custody and Access Decisions: Implementing a Best Interests and Rights of the Child Test", *Canadian Bar Review*, Special Issue on Family Law, Vol.

86. No. 3.

Williams, S. and Heycoop, C. (2008). Ten tips for Legal Professionals: Meaningful Child Participation in Family Justice Processes, *International Institute for Child Rights and Development*, University of Victoria, 24 pages.

Williams, S. (2008). *Child Curriculum and Resource Guide: Meaningful Child Participation in Family Justice Processes*, *International Institute for Child Rights and Development*, University of Victoria 94 pages.

Other Documents

White, W. and Cienksi, A. (2006) 'All the People Here are Your Family. We Should Stand Together': *New Dancers Return to the Nanaimo Big house*.

White, W. and Cienksi, A. (2007). *Cultural Considerations in Children's Participation: "Sharing the Thoughts of the Adult World: Young Billy Speaks About Our Teachings: With Reference to the Convention on the Rights of the Child"*.

White, W. and Cienksi, A., (2008). "Traditionally Trained Coast Salish Elders/Sulalewqw: General Background and Principles".

IICRD Publications

Blanchet-Cohen, N. (March, 2008). *Children's agency in child protection*. Rethinking child protection: the perspectives from research and assessed experience. Sacramento, United States.

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Williams, S. Chair, Continuing Legal Education Program: "Meaningful Child Participation in Family Justice Processes: Hear the Child", in collaboration with CLEBC. (2008). Presenters: Natasha Blanchet-Cohen and William White; Role Play facilitator: Cheryl Heykoop.

Williams, S., Lecture, (2007). Child rights, Law 373, International Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria, BC.

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Other Documents

Minister of International Cooperation Announces Child Protection Partnership (CPP),

February 2008, Toronto

Tala Tatoosis with support from IICRD's Natasha Blanchet Cohen presents an Indigenous Youth perspective for YouthScape on Saskatoon Radio, Fall 2007.

Epoch Times Victoria Staff, Internet Fuels Child Exploitation: Pedophiles use internet to prey on children, promote pedophilia, Joan Delaney, March 20, 2008.

University of Victoria, The Ring, Partnership fights online child exploitation, March 2008.

Saanich News & Victoria News, UVic Team tackles child porn overseas, Keith Vass, February 29, 2008.

University of Victoria, The Ring, Partnership fights online child exploitation, March 2008.

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Live half hour interview with Sean Leslie, CKNW Radio, Hear the Child, Evaluation of Kelowna Pilot Project, Child Participation in Separation and Divorce Proceedings, Kelowna, May 20, 2007.

Coast Salish News, Duncan, BC. Feb 2008 "We have to come home, the way we were raised."

Coast Salish News, Duncan, BC March 2008 "St'etli'inep Families Prepare to Host Relatives from the Coast Salish Region (c 1880).

Coast Salish News, Duncan, BC. April 2008 "Off to the Grocery Store" or The Family Works Together (circa 1863).

IICRD People

Core Team

Dr. Philip Cook, Executive Director

Suzanne Williams, Deputy and Legal Director

Dr. Stuart Hart, Deputy Director and Director of Professions and Academic Institutions

Dr. Natasha Blanchet-Cohen, Research and Evaluation Director

Bill White, (*Xelimumw/Kasalid, Coast Salish*), Traditional Tribal Advisor

Michele Cook, Program and Capacity Director

Vanessa Currie, Child Protection Manager

Renée Lormé-Gulbrandsen, Administrative Coordinator

Jen Wheeler, Project Assistant - YouthScape

Lorelle Posten, Administrative Director

Robert Parker, Project Assistant

Bruce Lund, Chief Operations Officer

Cheryl Heykoop, Project Officer

Jorge Salazar, Community Youth Facilitator

Lana Kenderdine, Financial Officer

Board of Directors

Dr. Gordon Smith, Director of the Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria

Jil Amadio, Communications, Marketing and Public Relations Consultant

Martin Golder, Architect and conflict Management Consultant

Simon Jackson, Founder and Director of Spirit Bear Youth Coalition

Dr. Philip Cook, IICRD Executive Director (ex-officio)

IICRD would like to welcome the following Board members

Jane Dewing, Former Executive Director of the Victoria Cool Aid Society

Dawn Cameron, Health Care Professional, Victoria

Dr. Tara Ney, Institute for Dispute Resolution, University of Victoria

Terri Cohen, Lawyer, Harris & Company LLP, Vancouver

For their many years of service, dedication and hard work, IICRD thanks

Larissa Streu, Lawyer, BC Securities Commission

Kaija Dixon, former Administration Director and Financial Coordinator, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada

Advisors Providing IICRD with International Child Rights Advice

Senator Landon Pearson, Director, Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights, Carlton University

Dr. Roger Hart, Professor, Director of Children's Environments Research Group

Kim Recalma-Clutesi OgwiLogwa (*Kwagiulth*), *Qualicum Reserve*

Noeli Pocaterra, Senator, Government of Venezuela (Wayuu)

Jaap Doek, Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Geneva

Dr. Bill Myers, Chair, International Child Rights Expert, University of California at Davis

Victor P. Karunan, Senior Advisor, Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP), UNICEF Head Quarters, New York

Associates Currently Supporting IICRD Work

Benedito dos Santos, Brazilian Anthropologist focusing on protection of children.

Brent Parfitt, Member of UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Geneva and former Deputy Ombudsman for British Columbia.

Derek Peterson, ED of ICARUS and leader in the youth development field.

Gary Robinson, Ph.D.; CRED-PRO Manager: organizational, distance learning, higher education, research, and Latin America affairs.

Gerison Lansdown, International consultant in children's rights.

Jan Mackie, Director of Spiral Garden with 25 years experience in art garden therapeutic interventions with children at risk.

Jeff Goldhagen, Academy of Pediatrics - Cred-Pro Advisor.

Jennifer Tang, Research associate.

Julian Norris, Director of Innovation and Development - Western Canada Outward Bound.

Martha Erickson, A developmental psychologist and professor specialising in parent-child attachment, child abuse prevention and children's mental health.

Martha Nelems, Former child protection focal point at CIDA.

Mira Dodig, Children's mental health practitioner with experience working in war affected areas.

Zosa de sas Kropiwnicki, making a difference on child protection issues in South Africa and abroad.

IICRD wishes to acknowledge Miller Thomson LLP for their support with our filings, Schell and Associates for completing our audit, Kaldor for completing our branding document, and all of our advisors, associates, members and many volunteers that supported IICRD's work this year

In Memoriam of Friends Lost this Year

Debra M. Van Ginkel, Q. C.



IICRD was very saddened by the death of Debra M. Van Ginkel, Q.C. on January 26, 2008. A friend and advisor to IICRD, Debra was a lawyer who practiced family law in Vancouver, BC at the firm of Watson Goepel Maledy and her contributions to community, as well as family law and the broader legal profession were numerous. She was an advisor to IICRD's Hear the Child project from the very beginning in 2003 and she supported the participation of children within her own legal practice by requesting the court to hear the views of children in several of her cases. Debra brought many gifts to IICRD through her expertise, commitment and courage. Her dedication to move this work forward from the earliest stages has helped set the stage for children to be heard in family justice processes in BC. We express our heartfelt thanks to Debra for her many gifts, her boundless energy and support. You are missed.

Dr. Cynthia Price Cohen



Another great loss to IICRD was the passing of our Advisor Cynthia Price Cohen, the Founding Executive Director of ChildRights International Research Institute and Research Associate at the Ralph Bunche Institute on the United Nations of the City University of New York. Cynthia was a special friend of IICRD. She helped develop, supported, presented and participated in many of IICRD's programs, thereby benefiting all involved. She was respected and loved by those who knew her. She will be greatly missed. Through her life she made the world for children better. Her spirit, influences and contributions will continue to influence our work and benefit the lives of the world's children.

IICRD is currently developing a book entitled **CHILD RIGHTS VISIONS: *Farsighted Essays to Guide Advances in Child Rights*** in Cynthia's honor. These essays present challenging ideas and visions for advancing children's rights as suggested by human rights scholars and activists from around the world. For more information, visit www.iicrd.org.

Dr. Samuel Sam, O.C./Xwexwyaluc

Very quietly yet consistently he reminded us that UVIC sits in the heart of Salish territory and it is their teachings, songs, and ceremonies left in place hundreds of years before the coming of the European. As a former elected Tsartlip Chief, Administrator for the Saanich Indian School Board, Shaker Church Minister, Longhouse Speaker/Qweqwal (fluent in Leukwommen, Sencoten and Halkomelem) he was our visible connection to the Ancestors and the teachings of the Creator.

He was a Pipe Carrier and conducted Sweats (given by Alberta elders) on a weekly basis. Relatives from the Shaker Church helped him conquer an alcohol addiction and overcome a heart condition at least 30 years ago. When his Physician saying that he had no chance of survival at all, the Shakers cleaned, prayed, and begged God for his help. He lived much longer than his doctor predicted. It is for this reason, he said, "every morning I get up as soon as my feet reach the floor, I pray for all those around me." We witnessed his great skills to invoke prayers, to bring balance stability and belonging.

During my time at the University of Victoria and in conjunction with Dr. Philip Cook, IICRD he assisted with framing traditional teachings for an International Gathering of Indigenous People (video tape) and later for a program called, "Echoing of the Elders: Teachings For Coast Salish Youth." (dvd). During this same period he and a group of elders helped teach 3rd year School of Child and Youth Care student understand how to work with Elders and how to work with elders around the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child through several summer session courses.

During the filming of "Echoing of the Elders" he related the story about the Creation of the first woman, from a cedar tree, in Goldstream Park. In the same program he identified old village sites and or longhouses used by families in Tsartlip. He was gifting us with a process that was as old as time itself. It is from him that we learned, and saw visible proof, that traditions protect, traditions surround and perhaps more importantly traditions are important for all of us. It is for these reasons that he was awarded an Order of Canada and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from UVic. Our lives and hope for the future were strengthened by his presence. We will never know someone of his stature. With deep respect and thanks!

Bill White/Xelimuxw and Kasalid,
Traditional Tribal Specialist, IICRD



Dr. Samuel Sam, OC, Elders from Enowkin Centre, Wes Edwards, Bill White and Greg Sam

Dr. Samuel Sam is leading with the recitation of a Prayer the drummer accompany him with a Prayer Song.

Innovative research, education and capacity development that builds on strengths to advance peace, dignity and respect for children and our world.

Upcoming Events

IICRD will be launching a new, interactive website in fall 2008.

Be sure to check out www.iicrd.org and become a member of the IICRD community!

Stay tuned for the 20th Anniversary of the UNCRC and our *Child Rights in Practice: Measuring Our Impact* workshop/training coming to Whistler, British Columbia, May 10-15, 2009.



Donations

Each day, IICRD works to bring dignity, belonging, and justice to children and communities around the globe. The help we receive from funders and donors continues to bring us closer to seeing child rights as a reality.

Do you want to help make child rights a reality for children?

By donating to IICRD, you too can join the effort to end injustice in children's lives. For more information on financial donations, call (250) 472-4762 or email iicrd@uvic.ca.

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International Institute for Child Rights and Development

IICRD



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