

TORONTO CHILDREN'S CHARTER

Children, like other human beings, are entitled to fundamental rights and freedoms but because of their unique vulnerability, it is incumbent upon adults to ensure not only that children are safe from exploitation and neglect, but that they have access to a fair share of the society's resources. While parents have the primary responsibility for their children's care and upbringing, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child makes it clear that governments have a duty to help families fulfil their responsibilities and to protect the rights of children. The Toronto Children's Charter situates the provisions of the Convention in a local context.

- ❖ All Toronto children shall be entitled to a standard of living adequate to ensure healthy physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development, well-being, and a good quality of life.
- ❖ All Toronto children shall be entitled to adequate nutrition on a consistent basis.
- ❖ All Toronto children shall be entitled to be housed in dwellings that reflect the normal standard of their community.
- ❖ All Toronto children shall be entitled to spend sufficient time with their families throughout their childhood.
- ❖ All Toronto children shall be entitled, if their parents so choose, to participate in high quality child care/early education programs designed to meet the best interests of the child.
- ❖ All Toronto children shall be entitled to participate in recreational and leisure activities, in the form of play, creative expression, and skill development opportunities.
- ❖ All Toronto children shall be entitled to receive primary, secondary and higher education to enable them to reach their full potential.
- ❖ All Toronto children shall be entitled to the highest attainable level of health and the assurance that the resources necessary to ensure life-long good health are available.
- ❖ All Toronto children have the right to be served by governments which acknowledge their responsibility to improve the health and well-being of children and work cooperatively to ensure adequate and equitable funding for children's programs.
- ❖ All Toronto children have the right to be protected from physical, psychological and sexual abuse both in and out of the home.

The foregoing rights shall apply to all Toronto children without discrimination according to race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, ability/disability, ethnic origin, language, region, property or class, religion, or any other distinction. This may entail the use of affirmative action or equity programs in order to redress situations of special individual, community or regional disadvantage.

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