

2014

# International Child Protection Network of Canada



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Canada  
2014

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## Foreword

Over the course of 2014, The International Child Protection Network of Canada has progressed steadily towards our goals of improving Child Protection programming among Canadian International Development NGOs with an emphasis on rights based approaches, and with participation and accountability to children. The network has done this through its collaborations with International Child Protection NGO's and government bodies such as the Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development (DFATD).

Since the inception of the network, the relationships that have been developed have fostered an environment of trust, openness and accountability. The network has created a space for improving programming quality with child protection and its many facets as a cross cutting theme, which will allow for more children to be effectively protected.

This 2014 Annual Report provides a glimpse into the accomplishments undertaken by the Network's Working Groups, including galvanizing support for the development of a Child Protection unit and Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) unit at DFATD through the research and publication of the ICPNC's first policy brief and the efforts of the Working Groups. It is this kind of engagement that aligns programming and policy so that we are able to work comprehensively and amplify our reach.

After an eventful year we look forward to accomplishing our 2015 thematic goals with Child participation.

Thank you all for your unprecedented dedication to Child Protection.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Patricia Erb'.

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Patricia Erb  
**President & CEO**  
**Save The Children Canada**

# Introduction

## What Is The ICPNC

The International Child Protection Network Canada (ICPNC) was established in January 2013 as a result of international child-centered organizations and individuals coming together based on a shared interest and commitment to increasing the effectiveness of child protection programming. Its goal is to **increase effectiveness of Network Members' programmatic activities and stakeholder engagement aimed at improving child protection in developing countries.**

Members of the network represent diverse international child-centered NGOs, academic institutions, individual consultants and experts working in the field of child protection. While working in collaboration across technical working groups: Children and Work, Child Participation, Child Safeguarding, Monitoring and Evaluation, Policy Engagement, the network addresses common challenges, identifies best practice, and explores innovative results-based programming and policy.

The objectives of the network are to improve child protection programming among Canadian international development NGOs with an emphasis on rights based approaches, participation and accountability to children; to effectively engage key stakeholders on critical child protection issues and to improve child protection policy, systems and procedures organizationally among Canadian international development NGOs.

The Network is chaired by Save the Children Canada in collaboration with the Steering Committee which sets the strategic planning and implements with the working groups. The working groups then develop action plans to reach goals and develop partnerships.

## Organizational Structure



## Achievements Of 2014

In 2014 the network gained noted visibility from the Government of Canada through their participation in Child Protection roundtables hosted by The Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), and their publication of a policy paper titled, "Child Protection: Practical Interventions for the Government of Canada." The network also encouraged DFATD to create the official Child Protection Unit and ICPNC works closely with this unit to ensure effective and accountable child protection programming.

The ICPNC has been structured in 5 working groups: policy engagement, monitoring and evaluation on child protection, child safeguarding, children and work and child participation. It is through these groups that network members have been engaging in the activities presented below.

### Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is charged with the strategic planning and oversight of the ICPNC as well as the facilitation of collective decision making. The steering committee oversees working priorities for the entire Network and ensures cohesion between working groups, in particular as it relates to the policy recommendations that were put forward by the ICPNC's policy paper to DFATD.

The Steering Committee also oversees the logistical requirements of the ICPNC, such as meeting planning, preparation, and facilitation, revision of new members' applications and operations management.

### Policy Engagement

Engaging and advising government on child protection policy development is an overarching theme for the ICPNC. As such, the Policy Engagement Working Group is focused on using the body of knowledge and experience of ICPNC members and to advise key government stakeholders.

The PEWG has demonstrated consistent engagement with both ministerial and DFATD staff to advance the overall child protection agenda. In May 2014 the group developed a policy paper titled *Child Protection: Practical Interventions for the Government of Canada*. The paper provided important rationale and data in support of DFATD's new Child Protection and the Child, Early and Forced Marriage Units. In October, the PEWG represented the ICPNC at the Child Protection Roundtable with The Minister of International Development and Minister for La Francophonie in attendance, and subsequently revised the set of policy recommendations based on feedback from the Minister's office.

The group also facilitated the organization of the 25th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Ottawa at a local elementary school attended by The Minister of International Development and Minister for La Francophonie.

## Child Safeguarding

Organizations committed to child protection must aim to achieve the highest level of protection for children with whom they come into contact and work towards achieving Child Safeguarding standards. As international child protection actors, ICPNC members believe that all children must be protected from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Safeguarding experts recognize that all organizations coming into contact with children have a fundamental duty of care towards them, and must acknowledge their responsibility to keep children safe in both humanitarian relief and development interventions.

The Child Safeguarding Working Group is focused on improving child protection policy, systems and procedures organizationally among Canadian international development NGOs. This year the group has worked to formally map a definition of safeguarding and is working to implement it across the network. They are looking at strategies and tactics to carry out the implementation of child safeguarding across INGO's and other agencies working with children. The importance of child safeguarding is in training employees that work with children on how to keep children safe, and in sharing best practices for child safeguarding.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Guaranteeing that child protection programs are effective in the delivery and overall impact of their programs requires a vast amount of reliable and valid definitions and measurements. Within child protection, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is conducted variably as programs and projects are dynamic and require different tools to be measured effectively.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group is focused on how Monitoring and Evaluation is conducted within ICPNC member organisations. It focuses on results in terms of impact and outcomes by assessing existing child protection policies, standards and knowledge then looks at strengthening measurements and outcomes using their findings. As part of this process, the group focuses on implementation through outputs, activities, and inputs by monitoring progress, testing models on child protection community-based M&E mechanisms, learning to improve child participation and developing indicators for measurements.

In 2014 the group identified two areas of core interest: child protection in emergencies, and child protection in children's participation. They have also developed a mapping tool and have identified sources for M&E which are shared internally with the ICPNC.

## Children and Work

The focus of ICPNC's Children and Work Working Group (CWWG) is to ensure that children who must work are protected and supported to find sustainable alternatives to harmful work including quality education and safe and dignified work. Children often must work to support themselves and their families but the work that children perform can have positive as well as negative effects. Children may work in dignified situations that are neither harmful nor exploitative where they are able to attain education or learn technical, business and life skills, earn an income and realize their citizenship as active members of their community. However children can also be found working in unsafe and unhealthy environments with little or no pay and find that they are unable to pursue their education and other rights<sup>1</sup>.

In 2013, the CWWG has made progress on a position statement on children and work and has begun to collaborate with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and DFATD. The ICPNC was invited by the Government of Canada to participate in the 3rd International Conference on Child Labour organised by the ILO in Brazil, as part of the Canadian delegation. The working group continued its efforts to expand the body of evidence to provide policy support and expertise to ESDC and the Child Protection Unit of DFATD in preparation for the 2017 ILO Conference, with a special focus on planning a consultation with working children and reviewing potential areas of collaboration with other ICPNC working groups.

## Child Participation

Children possess the fundamental right to participate in decisions that affect their lives —within the family, the school or the community. Child participation is widely embraced by many child-focused international development agencies in all policies, programs and research. It is a general principle, and a right enshrined in articles 12 to 15 in the UN Convention on the Rights of the child. According to the UN Committee, child participation “has evolved and is now widely used to describe ongoing processes, which include information-sharing and dialogue between children and adults based on mutual respect, and in which children can learn how their views and those of adults are taken into account and shape the outcome of such processes”<sup>2</sup>

The Child Participation Working Group's focus is to ensure that children partake in decision making processes that affect their lives. Currently the group is informally sharing lessons learned and best practices, including approaches, strategies and tools, sharing information regarding trends and new developments in the field, documenting successes, articulating key messages, exploring concrete synergies and collaborating where possible.

In 2014, Members of the Children's Participation Working Group collaborated with leading children's rights academics around the world to strengthen the original three year insight partnership development Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) proposal that was submitted in 2013. The new “*Child Participation and Child Protection International Development and Humanitarian Efforts*” proposal, submitted on December 1st, 2014, aims to answer the following research questions: 1) What are the current definitions of children's participation in international child protection?; 2) How do current practices reflect, challenge or contribute to these definitions?; 3) What are the opportunities for advancing children's participation? The results from the first round of reviews on proposals will be shared in March 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> ICPNC, Policy Statement on Children and Work, 2013

<sup>2</sup> ICPNC, Child Protection: Practical Interventions for the Government of Canada, 2014

## Face to Face Meetings

In order to share knowledge and engage members in strategic planning, the ICPNC hosts regular face to face meetings. In 2013, the network met on four occasions, including as a side event during the 2013 Humber College Fair, ensuring greater visibility of the network in the Canadian public and with non-member organisations. In 2014 the network organized two meetings that took place in April and July.

### April 2014 Meeting

April's Face to Face meeting took place at Plan Canada's HQ in Toronto on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, 2014. In attendance were members from Plan Canada, Street Kids International, Save The Children Canada, Equitas, Right To Play, Partners in Technology Exchange, World Vision Canada, War Child Canada, Christian Children's Fund of Canada, Ryerson University, and one independent consultant.

The group gathered for a full day meeting. At first each working group presented their updates, highlighting achievements, best practices and challenges. The Policy Engagement Working Group held a participatory session to present and discuss the policy paper *Child Protection: Practical Interventions for the Government of Canada*, engaging all members in providing inputs. The outcomes of this discussion were incorporated in the final version of the paper. A learning session was held on safeguarding in order to share definitions and approaches. The participants then moved to a group activity to take part in a live mapping of child protection programs and systems. Information was sorted by countries, actors and projects. It allowed the members to unpack our specific child protection projects and how they align with other projects. The child protection system mapping was particularly instructive as it allowed identification of overlaps, possible opportunities for collaboration and areas of strengths

Finally, the members also addressed some governance issues and decisions were collectively made on membership fees and criteria and strategies for increased collaboration.

### July 2014 Meeting

July's Face to Face meeting took place at Save the Children Canada's HQ in Toronto on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 2014. In attendance were members from Save The Children Canada, World Vision, Street Kids International, Plan Canada, Partners in Technology Exchange, Ryerson University, Christian Children's Fund of Canada, Equitas, and Right To Play.

The group convened to discuss strategic planning for 2015. First, the need for more and better child protection evidence was presented, analysing the role of the M&E WGs and its purpose for the network as well as the type of data to collect to contribute to policy change, improved organizational systems, etc. Discussions around increased public engagement followed, particularly on the development of a collective plan to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CRC as ICPNC. Finally, members brainstormed the possible thematic focus for 2015 in order to build an annual plan for the quarterly face to face meetings and identify goals and achievable outcome. By the end of the discussion, the theme of child participation was selected by the participants as their preferred focus which was then submitted for approval to the entire membership through an on-line consultation.

## Financial Reports

The ICPNC is funded by network membership fees that are calculated based on the size and type of member organization.

Annual report 2014				
	Membership Fees	WV Special Contribution	SCC- CLW Expenses	Total
<b>Funding Received</b>	3,075.00	2,000.00	1,521.18	6,596.18
	<u>3,075.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>1,521.18</u>	<u>6,596.18</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Co-ordinator Support Staff	200.00		1,490.00	1,690.00
Travel Expenses	326.69		31.18	357.87
Communication Expenses	126.77			126.77
	<u>653.46</u>	-	<u>1,521.18</u>	<u>2,174.64</u>
<b>Balance C/f Next year</b>	2,421.54	2,000.00	-	4,421.54

## List of Members Organisations and Individuals

### ACTIVE MEMBERS

Children and Youth as Peace builders

Christian Children's Fund of Canada

Equitas

Partners in Technology Exchange

Plan Canada

Right to Play

Save the Children

Street Kids International

UNICEF Canada

War Child Canada

World Vision Canada

### PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Canadian Red Cross

CARE Canada

International Bureau Of Child Rights - IBCR

International Institute for Child Rights and Development - IICRD

Compassion

MEDA

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Five (5) consultants specialized in child protection and child rights

Researcher from Ryerson University

Researcher from McGill University