

2015

International Child Protection Network of Canada



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2015

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Foreword

The year 2015 has been an important one for child protection as our sector has made great progress in getting recognition and momentum thanks to the concerted efforts and coalition of child rights organisations such as ICPNC. Internationally we have seen child protection embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals and the launch of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. Domestically the Child Protection unit in Global Affairs Canada continues its important work and we witnessed an increase in calls for proposals related to the protection of boys and girls.

For the ICPNC, the year has been very rich in learning. Our focus on child participation allowed us to explore child protection through a different lens. The opportunities and challenges between a child rights approach to protection and one that strictly focuses on child protection offers fertile ground for innovative work. Our working groups organized high learning events that increased our collective knowledge and capabilities: the two days International Conference on **Facilitating Child Participation in International Child Protection** brought world recognized experts together in Toronto to explore the tensions between protective and participatory rights, the webinar on International Standards for Child Safeguarding deepened understanding on the connections between protection programming and our safeguarding practices, and finally the webinar on the Child Protection Resource Pack on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating Child Protection Programs increased members capacities to better track our interventions.

After an eventful year we look forward to 2016 where we will work together to better integrate the Sustainable Development Goals related to child protection in our program and policy work.

Thank you all for your unprecedented dedication to Child Protection.



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

Patricia Erb
President & CEO
Save The Children Canada

Introduction

About Us

We are a network of child-centered international development organisations, academic institutions and experts working together to protect children and advance children's rights. Our goal is to strengthen programs, policies and procedures, and increase the effectiveness of child protection programming among development organisations.

We believe that all children have an absolute right to be safe from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect. We also believe that all children possess provisional and participative rights. These guarantee their right to the necessary resources to ensure survival and development, and their right to be heard on decisions affecting their lives, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities.

Our Core Objectives are:

- 1) To improve child protection programming among Canadian international development NGOs with an emphasis on rights based approaches, participation and accountability to children
- 2) To effectively engage key stakeholders on critical child protection issues
- 3) To improve child protection policy, systems and procedures organizationally among Canadian international development NGOs.

Organizational Structure



Governance

Steering Committee Members, 2015

- ❖ **Olivia Lecoufle**, *Save the Children Canada (Chair)*
- ❖ **Steve Ashby**, *replaced by Ivette Fonseca, Plan Canada*
- ❖ **Laura Wright**, *Right to Play*
- ❖ **Sharon Njobo**, *Christian Children's Fund*

The ICPNC uses a collaborative governance structure to ensure the active participation of partners and maximize opportunities for knowledge sharing. The current chair, Save the Children Canada, works together with the Steering Committee to oversee working plans, facilitate collective decision-making and ensure cohesion between the five working groups, namely: Child Participation, Monitoring and Evaluation, Policy Engagement, Child Safeguarding, and Children and Work.

Year Theme: Child Participation

Through a consultative process, the network set the 2015 theme to be child participation. Child participation is a fundamental right enshrined in the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC). It affirms that children are full-fledged persons who have the right to participate in decision-making processes that may be relevant to their lives and influence decisions taken in their regard, within the school, family or community.

The principle requires that children's views in all matters affecting them are taken into consideration, in accordance with the child's age and maturity. When children and youth learn to communicate their opinions, make decisions and take responsibility, they can play significant roles as agents of transformation. Therefore, child participation is critical to international child protection efforts. In order to better support and protect children, it is important to engage with them about their needs, ideas and experiences.

The appeal of child participation means that it has been widely embraced by many child-focused international development agencies in all policies, programs and research.. Although advances have been made, significant implementation challenges remain. Therefore, the 2015 strategic aim was to assist members as they prioritised efforts to ensure the safe, meaningful and appropriate participation of children in their child protection programs.

Achievements Of 2015

Child Participation

The Child Participation Working Group promotes children's participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives, with an emphasis on supporting quality dialogue and action. In 2015, the Child Participation Working Group focused on three sub-themes: identifying definitions and practices of child participation in member organizations; determining ways to better integrate child participation in child protection systems; and exploring effective strategies for involving children in

ICPNC activities. To support further research and dialogue on the salient issue of child participation in child protection, the Child Participation Working Group organized the **Facilitating Child Participation in International Child Protection Conference**, at Ryerson University on October 5-6, 2015. The conference brought together approximately sixty individuals

representing various local and international academic institutions, government departments and non-profit organisations.

The key goal was to identify and discuss the current gaps or issues that require priority in research and advocacy in order to support child participation in international child protection efforts.

Conference participants adopted a comprehensive and holistic working definition of child protection as those efforts that aim to ensure that child rights are protected, while improving the quality of life and wellbeing of young people around the world. This broad working definition provided a consistent framework for analysis and increased the generalizability of findings across

Child Participation Working Group Members, 2015

- ❖ **Laura Wright**, *Right to Play (WG lead)*
- ❖ **Alana Kapell**, *Independent Consultant*
- ❖ **Emily Zinck**, *PhD Student, Child Soldiers Initiative*
- ❖ **Frederic Hareau**, *Equitas*
- ❖ **Jean-Sebastien Valle**, *Equitas*
- ❖ **Micheal Montgomery**, *IICRD*
- ❖ **Monica Ruiz Casares**, *McGill University*
- ❖ **Olivia Lecoufle**, *Save the Children Canada*
- ❖ **Richard Carothers**, *Partners in Technology Exchange*
- ❖ **Tara Collins**, *Ryerson University*

diverse cultural contexts.

Participants explored issues at the intersection of child participation and child protection, shared best practices as well as lessons learned, and also identified key research and advocacy priorities for moving the field forward. In keeping with the theme of the conference, organizers held a Youth Preparatory Meeting on October 4, 2015 to engage with and solicit youth perspectives and ideas. These were shared during the conference, enriching discussions by grounding them in the lived experiences of young people who had been in care or protection.

The **Facilitating Child Participation in International Child Protection Conference** helped to develop an understanding of the current institutional, ethical, political and social barriers to children's participation so that these can be reduced or mitigated; and children's participation can become more effective in shaping child protection policies and programs.

The Child Participation Working Group also fostered innovation by forming the International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership (ICCRP) with seven academic institutes and ten non-governmental organisations (NGOs). This Knowledge Mobilization initiative builds on existing collaborations to strengthen research on child participation in child protection settings. Furthermore, the partnership facilitates the global transfer of academically rigorous evidence to development agencies that design and implement child protection programs. A collaborative governance structure led by a steering committee will be used to ensure the active participation of partners in the intellectual leadership of the project and maximize opportunities for practitioners and partners to share their expertise.

In November, 2015 the ICCRP submitted a research proposal to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for a multi-faceted research study that will contribute to rigorous evidence and thought leadership about ways to better monitor children's meaningful participation in child protection. The specific focus will be on how to define, practice and advance the success of child participation in international child protection work. A related goal is to examine how participation in general, shapes the children involved, larger society and development or humanitarian projects.

Policy Engagement

The Policy and Engagement Working Group (PEWG) engages with the Government of Canada and advises key stakeholders on child protection policy development, as well as current and emerging child protection issues. In 2015, the PEWG developed their strategy in preparation for two significant shifts in the external environment. Activities centred on assessing impacts, implementing plans and transitioning to the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the election period for a new government in Canada.

January 2015 marked the beginning of the inter-governmental negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On behalf of the ICPNC, the PEWG joined the Canadian discussion on the global goals relevant to child protection and participation.

The PEWG engaged with policy staff at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFTAD) now Global Affairs Canada (GAC), in an effort to encourage the adoption of a child protection strategy and strengthen relationships with the Child Protection Unit. Members of the PEWG also presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (FAAE), to prevent violence against children and youth as well as end exploitation, including harmful labour. Thanks to these interventions, the FAAE unanimously recommended that the Children's Rights and Business Principles be integrated into the Terms of Reference for the new Development Financing Initiative. Through an ongoing and interactive process of advocacy and knowledge sharing with GAC, the Minister and key staff, PEWG encouraged the Canadian government to strongly support the child protection agenda through the SDG process. The group developed a targeted policy brief containing ICPNC Recommendations for Canada's Engagement in the Sustainable Development Goals Process, which was sent to the Canadian SDG Team in GAC as well as to the Minister. This policy brief was followed and supported by an official submission as part of the official GAC request for feedback on Canada's Post-2015 development priorities.

ICPNC was pleased to see many of our core policy issues included in the Government of Canada's official priorities namely, child protection, creating safe learning environments, addressing children engaged in harmful work, building civil registration and vital statistic systems and eliminating all forms of abuse, violence and exploitation against children. Further to supporting strengthened language and indicators in the goals, Canada also supported the new Global Partnership to End Violence against Children and joined the Group of Friends of Children and the SDGs, which was a key ICPNC PEWG recommendation.

While the election itself was held in the fall of 2015, the campaigning began in earnest as soon as the House rose in June 2015. As a result, GAC policy work slowed and in keeping with the non-partisan stance of the network and its member organisations, the PEWG decided not to pursue an electoral strategy.

As is the case with any change of government, the election of a new Liberal Government has presented an opportunity to advance new ideas in the overall child protection agenda. As such, a notable PEWG activity included welcoming the new Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P., into office.

Policy Engagement Working Group, 2015

- ❖ **Cicely McWilliam**, *Save the Children Canada (WG lead)*
- ❖ **Amanda Sussman**, *Plan Canada*
- ❖ **Eleanor Hevey**, *UNICEF Canada*
- ❖ **Emma Colucci**, *Right to Play*
- ❖ **Ivette Fonseca**, *Plan Canada*
- ❖ **Jenn Donville**, *War Child Canada*
- ❖ **Laura Wright**, *Right to Play*
- ❖ **Lori Galway**, *Right to Play*
- ❖ **Olivia Lecoufle**, *Save the Children Canada*
- ❖ **Reena Vohra**, *World Vision Canada*
- ❖ **Sharon Njobo**, *Christian Children's Fund of Canada*
- ❖ **Simon Lewchuck**, *World Vision Canada*
- ❖ **Tanja Suvilaasko**, *Plan Canada*

Child Safeguarding

Child Safeguarding Working Group, 2015

- ❖ **Carol Tisshaw**, *Save the Children Canada (WG lead)*
- ❖ **Debbie Singh**, *Plan Canada*
- ❖ **Ivette Fonseca**, *Plan Canada*
- ❖ **Laura Wright**, *Right to Play*
- ❖ **Olivia Lecoufle**, *Save the Children Canada*
- ❖ **Sharon Njobo**, *Christian Children’s Fund*

The Child Safeguarding Working Group (CSWG) emphasizes 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. Child participation, the ICPNC theme of the year, was integrated into the CSWG’s annual plan and endeavour in three main ways: through examining the potential roles for child participation in safeguarding policies and practices; identifying current practices and barriers; and sharing best practices for child safeguarding.

To support these goals, the CSWG organised and hosted a webinar on the International Standards for Child Safeguarding and how these relate to Child Participation, Do no Harm, Child Protection Programming and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Child safeguarding is a broader concept than the latter frameworks, as it incorporates all internal policies, procedures and measures that aim to ensure that all involved working with children do all that they can to prevent all forms of harm to children and respond to any concerns.

The webinar was held at Plan Canada in Toronto on November 20, 2015 (Universal Children’s Day) and facilitated by Corrine Davey, an International Consultant on child protection and former Director of the Keeping Children Safe Coalition. Geared towards providing professional development, it reached a diverse group of approximately sixty online and onsite practitioners. The focus was on the achievements implementing the International Safeguarding Standards, with a particular emphasis on the requirements for engaging children in safeguarding.

CSWG Webinar Statistics

Facilitators	1
Online participants	30
On-site participants	30
Total Participants	61

Through case study analysis, participants exchanged ideas and experiences about the challenges that ICPNC member organisations face when facilitating safe participation in child protection programmes, developing suitable risk measures and implementing complaint mechanisms. The CSWG webinar on the International Standards for Child Safeguarding helped to increase participant’s knowledge and skills for engaging children in organizational efforts to strengthen child safeguarding measures.

The CSWG also held a targeted consulting session on Safeguarding Audits, using the recent Save the Children audit as an example. The aim was to support members in their efforts to develop guiding principles and standards, mainstream these into key managerial and people systems, and ensure organisational compliance with the International Child Safeguarding Quality Framework Standards. The CSWG audit helped member organisations develop a common approach to ensuring that best practices are maintained to keep the children we work with safe.

Monitoring and Evaluation

There is a lack of robust evidence on the impact of child protection programs in developing countries. The Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG) supports ICPNC member efforts to define measure and assess the effectiveness of programmatic activities and technical goals. The MEWG helps build a stronger evidence base for global child protection approaches by sharing the latest tools, practices, ethical guidelines and methodologies, and by collaborating on programmatic evidence and research.

In 2015, the MEWG identified two core areas of interest within the ICPNC theme of child participation namely: building staff skills and capacity to include children in the collection and analysis of data; and strengthening child participation measures by effectively utilizing existing outcomes indicators and tools. To help achieve these goals, the MEWG hosted a webinar on the Child Protection Resource Pack on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating Child Protection Programs, developed by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The webinar was held on December, 10, 2015 at Plan Canada in Toronto and facilitated by Karin Heissler, Jennifer Keane and Caroline Bacquet from the Planning and Evidence Building Team in the Child Protection Section of UNICEF Headquarters in New York.

M&E Working Group Members, 2015

- ❖ **Ivette Fonseca**, *Plan Canada (WG Lead)*
- ❖ **Gurvinder Singh**, *Canadian Red Cross*
- ❖ **Kristin Neudorf**, *Right to Play*
- ❖ **Monica Ruiz Casares**, *McGill University*
- ❖ **Nicole Petrowski**, *Independent Consultant*
- ❖ **Ross Tanner**, *War Child Canada*
- ❖ **Tara Collins**, *Ryerson University*
- ❖ **W. Wossen Beleheu**, *Christian Children’s Fund Canada*

MEWG Webinar Statistics

Facilitators	3
Online participants	30
On-site participants	15

Total Participants 18

Designed as an instructional development course, the webinar provided an overview of the content included in the four modules of the UNICEF resource pack. The overall emphasis was on how to improve the planning, design and monitoring of child protection program results, using case studies and documented experiences to promote and support good practices. It was therefore highly targeted to the needs of the approximately forty-five online and onsite participants, with technical backgrounds and professional interests in planning, and monitoring and evaluation (PME).

The MEWG webinar on the Child Protection Resource Pack on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating Child Protection Programs thus facilitated knowledge-sharing, professional development and capacity building for a topic that is practical and useful for all ICPNC members.

Through collaboration and dialogue, the MEWG remained at the forefront of core ICPNC events and topical issues. During the **Facilitating Child Participation in Child Protection Conference**, MEWG members led a session on monitoring and evaluating children's participation. The workshop highlighted practical strategies for measuring key dimensions of child participation such as the level of institutionalization in all levels of society, and the scope, quality and outcomes of children’s participation initiatives. The workshop also provided practical data collection tools, presented youth perspectives and used case studies to illustrate, promote and support best M&E practices.

Furthermore, MEWG members provided support and contributed technical perspectives to the ICCRP Research Proposal. They also actively explored complex issues that affect all ICPNC members such as: the challenges of developing and measuring effective and contextually appropriate indicators of child participation; child participation methods and techniques for PME; gender main-streaming and analysis; community engagement approaches, and safety and ethical requirements in emergency situations, conflicts and natural disasters.

Children, Youth and Work

Children and youth can and do work to support themselves and their families and through their work, can learn important technical, business and life skills that help them prepare for future careers as productive members of their societies. Work can have harmful as well as positive aspects and it is important that children and youth are not harmed or exploited through their work. It is also important that working children and youth participate in the development and implementation of policies and programs that are intended to help them.

Children and Work: Working Group Members, 2015

- ❖ **Richard Carothers**, *Partners in Technology Exchange (WG lead)*
- ❖ **Alana Kapell**, *Independent member*
- ❖ **Ivette Fonseca**, *Plan Canada*
- ❖ **Olivia Lecoufle**, *Save the Children Canada*
- ❖ **Reena Vorha**, *World Vision Canada*
- ❖ **Sarah Moorcroft**, *Street kids/Save the Children Canada*
- ❖ **Tara Collins**, *Ryerson University*

The Children and Work Working Group (CWWG) promotes the rights and interests of children who work to support themselves and their families, and that working children can find safe and dignified work.

In 2015, the CWWG focused on working children's voices. A first activity was to follow up on the change of law in Bolivia. Indeed, in 2014, the Bolivian government passed a law introducing exceptions to the legal working age of fourteen, allowing children to work from the age of ten as long as they attend school and are self-employed. This law was developed with the active participation of the Bolivian Union of Child and Adolescent Workers

(UNATSBO). Members of the CWWG analyzed the context of the law, the participation of children and what would be best mechanisms to monitor its implementation in country.

Additionally the CWWG focused on supporting a global campaign to secure the participation of working children in the 2017 ILO International Conference on Child Labour that will take place in Argentina. Recognizing the challenges facing working children in trying to influence ILO child labour policies the CWWG focused on two ways of helping working children prepare to take part in the 2017 ILO conference. The first encouraged ICPNC members to assist in the "Time to Talk Campaign" that is being carried out by Save the Children, terre des hommes Germany and KinderNotHilfe. This campaign will provide diverse groups of working children the opportunity to document their experiences and make recommendations to policy makers that can be shared at the ILO Conference.

The second engaged the Canadian Department of Labour in discussions about the importance of having working children participate in the ILO conference, as the Canadian government is able to influence the ILO in developing the 2017 conference agenda.

The CWWG collaborated with the Child Participation Working Group to host the **Facilitating Child Participation in International Child Protection Conference** and through the conference to: Identify and assess child participation barriers and ethical dilemmas, map Canadian policies and practice to contribute towards children's work; and critically examine Bolivia's new legislative approach to children's work.

To leverage ICPNC efforts for 2016, the Children and Work Working Group will merge activities with the Child Participation Working Group.

Face to Face Meetings

In order to share knowledge and engage members in strategic planning, the ICPNC hosts regular face to face meetings. In 2015, the network met on two occasions, in February and July.

February 2015 Meeting

The first meeting of the year took place at Save the Children Canada's Headquarters in Toronto on February 9, 2015. In attendance were members from Plan Canada, Street Kids International, Save the Children Canada, Right to Play, Partners in Technology Exchange, World Vision Canada, Christian Children's Fund of Canada, UNICEF Canada, Red Cross Canada, the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR), McGill University and one independent consultant.

Discussions centered on strategies to continue the growth momentum without losing the positive spirit of collaboration within the network. Through a consultative process, the network set the 2015 theme to be child participation. During the meeting participants focused on developing overarching questions for the theme as well as prioritizing sub-themes for each working group.

The meeting also provided a forum for each working group to present their group updates since the last meeting, as well as their 2015 strategic plans for achieving network objectives. To assist with the alignment of working group and ICPNC goals, work plan templates were distributed and modified based on feedback received during the meeting. Participants also discussed governance: membership fees and criteria and strategies for improved collaboration.

July 2015 Meeting

The ICPNC met at Plan Canada on July 23, 2015 for a second Face to Face meeting. In attendance were representatives from Ryerson University, Save the Children Canada, World Vision Canada, UNICEF Canada, Plan Canada, Right to Play, International Institute for Child Rights and Development, Canadian Christian Children's Fund, Partners in Technology Exchange, and independent consultants. The meeting agenda centred on child protection in the Post-2015 Global Agenda, definitions and principles of child participation, ICPNC's public engagement strategy and emerging child protection issues.

The first presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the key challenges and opportunities arising from the global shift from the Millennium Development Goals to the SDGs, and included an overview of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. Facilitated by UNICEF and Save the Children, participants discussed global, Canadian and ICPNC priorities, lessons learned, measurement indicators and development financing. These presentations thus provided important contextual information for addressing child protection and participation in the Post-2015 Agenda.

Through an interactive process, the second presentation enabled members to provide feedback and contribute to developing the network's public engagement strategy. Core questions centered on the target audience, message and level of commitment needed to engage with the Canadian public about child participation and child protection. These discussions provided a framework for further public engagement initiatives.

Finally, network members compared their various organizations' definitions of child participation. The group then identified themes and debated differences and similarities in their understanding. As a result, the meeting also helped pave the way for building a common working definition of child participation for all ICPNC members.

Financial Reports

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

2015 Annual Report			
	Membership	SCC- CLW Expenses	Total
Balance Previous year	4,421.54		4,421.54
Funds Received during the Year	2,575.00	500.00	3,075.00
	6,996.54	500.00	7,496.54
Expenses			
Co-ordinator Support Staff	698.00	500.00	1,198.00
Travel Expenses	90.40		90.40
Communication Expenses	56.98		56.98
Conference Meeting/Meals	1,103.94		1,103.94
	1,949.32	500.00	2,449.32
Balance Carried Forward	5,047.22	-	5,047.22

List of Member Organisations and Individuals

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Children/Youth as Peacebuilders

Christian Children's fund of Canada

Equitas

Partners in Technology Exchange

Plan

Right to Play

Save the Children

UNICEF

World Vision

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Canadian Red Cross

CARE Canada

Compassion

International Bureau for Children's Rights

International Institute for Child Rights and Development

MEDA

War Child Canada

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Eight (8) consultants specialized in child protection and child rights:

Jenn Donville

Joanna Wedge

Ivana Radic

Tara M. Collins

Emily Zinck

Mónica Ruiz-Casares

Alana Kappel

Nicole Petrovski