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NUTAQQANUT INULRAMIRNULLU
UQAGTIKHAANIK

REPRÉSENTANT DE
L'ENFANCE ET DE LA JEUNESSE

REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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Media Release

For Immediate Release

November 18, 2016

Representative for Children and Youth to Mark National Child Day

Will Participate in Youth Parliament, Announces Winners of Annual Child Rights Contest

Iqaluit, NU Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth will honour National Child Day this year by participating in the Legislative Assembly's Biennial Youth Parliament. National Child Day is marked every year on November 20 to recognize the ratification of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Canada signing the international treaty.

"Canada signed this agreement in 1991, committing our federal, provincial and territorial governments to legal responsibilities under the Convention. Yet, there is much work for governments to still do, to ensure all children in Canada enjoy the rights they are entitled to," Representative for Children and Youth Sherry McNeil-Mulak said.

This year, the Representative will honour the day by participating in the Legislative Assembly's televised Biennial Youth Parliament. The Representative will answer questions from youth parliamentarians on November 24, 2016, beginning at 1:30pm EST. Youth participants will also visit the RCY's office to meet staff and learn more about the office.

"It's an honour to participate in this youth-focused event. One of the rights our office promotes is included in Article 12 of the Convention – a child's right to participate in decisions that affect them," McNeil-Mulak stressed. "Respecting this right has been shown to support children in becoming active, effective citizens and improve decision-making, by including their often unique perspective on issues."

The RCY's office is also marking National Child Day by announcing the winners of its annual Your Story, Your Voice Contest. In 2016, the contest was open to public school classes across Nunavut and the theme was the right to participate.

This year's winners are:

- K-3 Class – Gjoa Haven Primary 3 – “Let Our Voices Be Heard”
- 4-7 Class – Gjoa Haven Primary 5 – “Rights Children Have”
- 8-12 Class – Arviat Grade 8B Class – “No Child Left Behind”

In the spirit of honouring a child's right to participate, classes will work with the RCY's office to determine what each class's prize will be.

About the Representative: The Representative for Children and Youth protects and promotes the rights of Nunavut's children and youth. We represent their voice in matters that affect them and ensure the Government of Nunavut protects and advances their rights and interests.

For more information:

Representative for Children and Youth's Office

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