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2017 Your Story, Your Voice Contest Winners Announced! Contest raises awareness of child rights and celebrates National Child Day

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Iqaluit, NU – The Representative for Children and Youth is pleased to announce the 2017 winners of the annual Your Story, Your Voice Contest. The contest helps to raise awareness of child rights and marks National Child Day, which is celebrated every year on November 20th. The theme for this year's contest was "the right to play" and school classes across the territory were invited to participate. Classes were asked to submit murals that reflected this year's theme.

"All the classes who participated put a lot of thought into what the right to play means and the submissions were very creative and impressive," Representative Sherry McNeil-Mulak said. "We often don't think of play as a right that young people have. But free, unstructured play is essential to children's development and an important part of childhood."

This year's winners are:

- K Grade 3 category: la classe de première année de l'École des Trois-Soleils in Iqaluit
- Grade 4 7 category: E7 Grade 6 class from Netsilik School in Taloyoak
- Grade 8 12 category: Grade 9 class from Qiqirtaq Ilihakvik in Gjoa Haven

To further celebrate National Child Day, the Representative for Children and Youth's Office (RCYO) is joining several local youth on a nationwide radio broadcast initiated by CJRU 1280AM The Scope at Ryerson University. The broadcast will focus on child rights and the Nunavut segment will focus more specifically on the right to culture.

Interviews will feature Ruth Kavoik, President of the National Inuit Youth Council, and David Korgak, RCYO Child and Youth Advocacy Specialist Intern, as well as the musical talents of singer/songwriter Kelly Fraser and the Inuksuk Drum Dancers.

Visit <u>http://rcynu.ca/families-public/about-us/youth-and-our-office/your-story-your-voice-</u> <u>contest/2017-your-story-your-0</u> to listen to the Nunavut segment of the National Child Day radio broadcast.

For more information:

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About the Representative for Children and Youth's Office (RCYO): The RCYO is an independent child and youth advocacy office that ensures the Government of Nunavut supports and protects the rights and best interests of young Nunavummiut. Please visit our website at <u>www.rcynu.ca</u>