

UPR Factsheet

Implementing Children's Rights in Canada

I. Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting

The third/fourth review of Canada's implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 2011-12 was an opportunity for Canada to put its first UPR commitments into practice. There was no evidence of improvement. The government's reports were very late; essential data on children in Canada was missing; and consultation with civil society was limited to issue identification. There was no substantive analysis of significant issues and options for addressing them.

II. General Mechanisms: Good Governance for Children

Since the first UPR, laws that directly contravene provisions in the CRC has been adopted, e.g. changes in the youth criminal justice system in Bill C-10 and changes in the Refugee Act, Bill C-31. This illustrates the lack of systemic mechanisms, also identified in the Concluding Observations of each review under the CRC.

III. Equitable Treatment through Special Attention for Vulnerable Children

The Concluding Observations repeatedly recommend special attention for more vulnerable children. These include: children in alternative care, children with disabilities, indigenous children, children in the immigration and refugee systems, children in ethnic minority groups, and children in remote, rural locations.

IV. Violence Against Children

In the first UPR Canada accepted recommendations to take action to prevent violence against women and children. Since then, however, many of the programs that contributed to prevention of violence have been cut or funding reduced. The Concluding Observations include a number of recommendations on this matter.

V. National Strategy to Reduce Child Poverty

During the first UPR Canada rejected recommendations for a national strategy for poverty reduction on the grounds it was not necessary. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child reviewed this during its dialogue with Canada and concluded that national action is necessary to address the depth of child poverty and the growing inequity that leaves children in poor households behind, without a good start to develop their full potential.