

THE SENATE OF CANADA



LE SÉNAT DU CANADA

Senator Landon Pearson

Sénatrice Landon Pearson

Ottawa K1A 0A4

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Dear *Children & the Hill* Reader:

I would like to inform you of the release of a key discussion paper on the National Children's Agenda (NCA). *A National Children's Agenda: Developing a Shared Vision* sets out for the consideration of all Canadians a common vision, values, goals and areas of action in a effort to better meet our children's needs. The Vision document identifies four goals to ensure that Canadian children are:

- Healthy physically and emotionally, *and spiritually*
- Safe and secure,
- Successful at learning, and
- Socially engaged and responsible.

As you are aware from reading past articles in my newsletter, *Children & the Hill*, the purpose of the NAC is to ensure that all Canadian children have the best possible opportunities in life. The Agenda will support the critical and primary role that parents, families and communities play in the lives of children.

In addition, I have enclosed the supplementary paper, *Measuring Child Well-being and Monitoring Progress*, which explores ways in which governments and Canadians can measure the progress of our children and share effective practices to improve their well-being.

Both papers are the result of extensive consultations among federal, provincial and territorial governments and five national Aboriginal organizations over the past few years.

You are invited to participate in this dialogue. At the end of the dialogue process, governments will incorporate the views of Canadians into a document. There are several ways you can send in your comments: by writing to National Children's Agenda, 280 Albert Street, 10th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5G8; via the website at www.children-enfants.org or by calling 1 800 361-6392. Operators can give you information on upcoming roundtables for stakeholders and interested citizens in your province or territory. Workbooks are also available upon request.

I urge you to demonstrate your concern for children to the federal, provincial and territorial governments by taking advantage of this unique opportunity. **Just making a phone call will show that you care.**

Sincerely,

Landon Pearson, Senator
Advisor on Children's Rights to
The Minister of Foreign Affairs