

THE SENATE OF CANADA

Senator Landon Pearson



Ottawa
K1A 0A4

LE SÉNAT DU CANADA

Sénatrice Landon Pearson

June 10, 2004

Ms. Jeanne Sarson and Ms. Linda MacDonald
Persons Against Ritual Abuse Torture &
Other Non-Political Torture: Child/Spouse
361 Prince Street
Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 6H9

Dear Ms. Sarson and Ms. MacDonald:

It is my great pleasure to send you in booklet format *A Canada Fit for Children*, Canada's National Action Plan for Children. *A Canada Fit for Children* was officially launched on Parliament Hill on May 10, 2004, the second anniversary of the United Nations Special Session on Children and fulfills the commitment Canada made there.

I'd like to express my appreciation for your extraordinary contribution during our eighteen months of intense interaction to lay out the issues and challenges confronting children and their families at home and abroad. I hope you will recognize your voice in the strategies and actions present in *A Canada Fit for Children*.

On April 22, 2004, I was delighted to deliver *A Canada Fit for Children*, on behalf of the Government of Canada, to Carol Bellamy, Executive Director, UNICEF, in New York. Canada is one of the first of the industrialized countries to complete a National Plan of Action. We are proud of the leading role in children's rights and well-being we are taking around the world.

Now onto the implementation stage that will unfold once the federal elections are over. *A Canada Fit for Children* is a document that has the potential to be very useful for all who care about or are responsible for children, including boys and girls themselves. Once again, I seek your support to ensure that the goals of *A Canada Fit for Children* guide our domestic and international policies and programs. Supporting families and strengthening communities, promoting healthy lives, protecting from harm, and promoting education and learning are all attainable goals in Canada as long as we can rally the will and the resources. A Canada that is truly fit for children will only result from our common and collective efforts.

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A Canada Fit for Children is a Government of Canada document that had strong ministerial support. Seventeen federal departments assisted in its preparation as well. But in the end, the real vision of the document came from people like you. Again, thank you for helping us prepare Canada's National Plan of Action for Children.

Sincerely,



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

POST SCRIPT: This letter was sent to us because of our participation and input into trying to have torture and ritual abuse-torture acknowledged in the national government of Canada document the *National Children's Agenda*. Although we were successful in having torture victimization named in the 1999. The *National Children's Agenda, Nova Scotians Respond*, at the national level torture victimization 'disappeared' or was not included in the federal document. The *National Children's Agenda* would eventually, in 2001, be Canada's contribution to the United Nations Special Session on Children document, *A World Fit for Children*.