



CALL FOR FIRST NATIONS YOUTH AMBASSADORS

FOR THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

September 12, 2011

THE FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY CARING SOCIETY OF CANADA (www.fncaringsociety.com) invites First Nations young people (ages 15–24) to apply for an opportunity to go to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

The youth that are selected to go will be asked to share their story and the stories of other First Nations children and youth across Canada about the inequalities in education, child welfare and health on-reserve in Canada.

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child is the international group responsible for making sure countries, like Canada, keep the promises they make to all children and youth according to the document they signed called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC).

ALL YOUTH APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be between the ages of 15–24 years (there are 2 age groups for entries so make sure you tell us in which age category you are applying)
- Have a passport (if you don't have one, we can help you get one, just let us know!)
- Be able to travel to Geneva, Switzerland for approximately 5 days in February 2012
- Get your guardian's permission if you are under 18 years old and have someone over 18 travel with you, like a parent, guardian or other trusted adult
- Agree to document your visit in video, audio or written format to share with other children, youth and caring adults in Canada

HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete the application form (see last page) including references
2. Review the following websites to learn all you can about them:
 - a. Education: Shannen's Dream at www.shannensdream.ca
 - b. Child Welfare: I am a Witness at www.fnwitness.ca; and
 - c. Equality in Services for First Nations Children: Jordan's Principle at www.jordansprinciple.ca
3. Read:
 - a. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at <http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/uncrcchildfriendlylanguage.pdf>
 - b. *Our Dreams Matter Too* report at <http://www.fncfcs.com/sites/default/files/docs/OurDreams-June2011.pdf>; and
 - c. *The Jordan and Shannen Report* at http://fncaringsociety.com/sites/default/files/docs/UNCRC_report_Canada_2011_final.pdf

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4. Write a four-page essay (double-spaced, 12 point font) or do a five-minute YouTube video on the following topic:
 - a. Pretend that you are responsible for giving a five-minute presentation to the United Nations Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
 - i. The Committee wants to know how Canada is doing in keeping its promises it has made to First Nations children and youth (0–18 years) in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
 - ii. Explain how the inequalities in child welfare, education and health on-reserve affect First Nations children and young people.
 - iii. Explain why First Nations cultures and languages are important to children and youth and whether or not you feel there are enough culture and language programs in schools and communities on reserves.
 - iv. Complete your presentation by sharing your ideas on what the Federal Government can do to fix the inequalities and make the lives of First Nations children and youth on reserves better.
 - b. Link your ideas for improvement to the Articles in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - c. *Tips:* Be sure to include your own experience, the experience of other children and youth you know and what other children and youth from across Canada have shared on-line in the *Our Dreams Matter Too* and the *Jordan and Shamen* reports. Link your ideas on how to fix the problems with the recommendations in these two reports too.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

You can ask a friend, teacher, family member or Andrea Auger who works at the FNCFCSC (aauger@fncaringsociety.com) to help you fill out your application form if you need to, or just send to the address below.

Your application can be in French, English or your First Nations language (please include it and provide an English or French translation.)

All entries will be reviewed by a panel who will then select entrants for a telephone interview and complete reference checks in order to select the ambassadors who will be going to meet with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. We hope to complete the selection process by the end of November 2011 and we will then provide training and support to the youth ambassadors before they leave for Switzerland.

Only complete entries will be accepted and must be received by 4:30 Eastern Standard Time on Tuesday, November 1, 2011. You can send your entry form and essay/video in the mail or by email to:

First Nations Youth Ambassador Contest
First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada
251 Bank Street, Suite 302, Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3
613 230-5885 | Web: www.fncaringsociety.com | Email: info@fncaringsociety.com



FIRST NATIONS YOUTH AMBASSADOR YOUTH AMBASSADOR ENTRY FORM

ENTRY DEADLINE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2011 AT 4:30 PM EST

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Date of Birth:

Age category you are applying in (check one): 15 years to 17 years 18 years to 24 years

Name of your First Nation:

Name of Guardian (if under 18 years of age):

Has your guardian given permission for you to apply? (if under 18 years of age): Yes No

Phone number of Guardian (if under 18 years of age):

Email of Guardian (if under 18 years of age):

Do you have a Passport? Yes No

If yes, When does it expire?

If no, find out how you can get a passport at: <http://www.ppt.gc.ca/index.aspx>

REFERENCES

Please give us the name and phone number of 2 references.

These should be people that can tell us about you and why you would be a good Youth Ambassador.

NAME OF REFERENCE 1:

Phone Number:

Email:

NAME OF REFERENCE 2:

Phone Number:

Email:

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BE SURE TO SAVE THIS FORM BEFORE EMAILING IT. THANK YOU!