



**Needed:  
A Federal  
Children's  
Commissioner  
for Canada**

# More Resources

Children

Toward  
daring discipleship

January  
2012

In 2007, the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights published a report entitled, "Children: The Silenced Citizens."

One of the recommendations of the report was the establishment of a Children's Commissioner at the Federal level to advocate and make recommendations on children's rights in Canada.

The mandate would be to promote, monitor and report concerning implementation of Canada's obligations under the Convention of the rights of the Child that are within the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada.

**For more information -Google:**

- \* *It's time for a National Children's Commissioner for Canada*-UNICEF
- \* *Independent Advocate for Children* - UNICEF
- \* *Children: The Silenced Citizens*, Chapter VI

**The Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children** a non-profit, voluntary organization dedicated to the full implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child in Canada and around the world.* <http://rightsofchildren.ca/>

**UNICEF Global Classroom:** Provides Canadian developed resources for elementary & secondary grade children. <http://globalclassroom.unicef.ca>

**Convention on the Rights of the Child** in 58 languages and Child-friendly versions at MAGIC briefing: <http://www.unicef.org/magic/briefing/uncorc.html> and <http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/uncrcchildfriendlylanguage.pdf>

**Through the Wild Web Woods** is a game developed by the Council of Europe to help children learn basic internet safety rules. A teachers guide is also available. [http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/Default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/Default_en.asp) (see link on left side bar)



Children

...from the margins to the centre

Lorna MacQueen  
Hamilton Conference Minister- Faith Formation for Discipleship  
The United Church of Canada

**Children**  
...from the  
margins to the  
centre



At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then he called a little child over to sit among the disciples

Matthew 18:1-2  
Copyright © 2011 by  
[Common English Bible](#)



*He called a little child to sit among them*

## Child Honoring With Raffi

<http://www.raffinews.com/>

### Remember Raffi? Raffi Cavoukian

He has turned his attention to the International welfare of children.

He challenges us to see the world in a different way- to see everything with the question of how what we do impacts on children. We are asked to make our decision with a child in our midst.

### He says: *What does it mean to honour children?*

*It means seeing them for the creatively intelligent people they are, respecting their personhood as their own, recognizing them as essential members of the community and providing the fundamental nurturance they need in order to flourish. Child Honouring connects the dots between the personal, cultural and planetary factors that affect formative growth, and asserts that sustainability strategies must take into account all three domains.*



**Available on the website:** (free resources in PDF format)

[A Covenant for Honoring Children](#) and [Child Honoring Principles](#), a number of free songs, and his books: *Child Honouring Anthology* and *The Life of a Children's Troubadour*.

## The Child Theology Movement



<http://www.childtheology.org/>

The term 'Child Theology' may have been first used in June of 2001. Those who are engaged in it, understand it as a theology that challenges the church to begin our 'God talk', talk of God's relation to the word, and our response to God... by doing as Jesus did- putting a child in the midst of us. It asks the question: what is the significance of this child?

The movement brings together people of diverse theological, political, and denominational perspectives to grapple with the question, and to bring children from the margins of our center.



brings together theological, political, national perspectives with the question, children from the theology to the

*Jesus put a child in the centre of the disciples when they were having a theological argument about greatness in the kingdom of God. It is plain that Jesus thought the child's presence would give the disciples a clue to the essential truth they were missing.*

*Occasionally over the centuries, the child has disturbed theologians at work, but has not been in a position to shape theology consistently.*

*In Child Theology, we are invited to take good note of the child in the midst as we think about, for, to, from and with God in Christ. As we do that, we expect our theology to change for the better. In Child Theology, we embark afresh on the journey with Christ into the open secret of God in the world.*

## Teaching Children's Rights Through Art



Children's Rights Centre CBU

<http://globalclassroom.unicef.ca>

(under *Secondary lesson plans* -or [http://globalclassroom.unicef.ca/pdf/Arts\\_Curriculum\\_English.pdf](http://globalclassroom.unicef.ca/pdf/Arts_Curriculum_English.pdf))

Diane Lewis, an arts educator, with Drs. Katherine Covell and Brian Howe from the Children's Rights Centre at Cape Breton University offer a curriculum resource based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is appropriate for youth 15 and up.

While designed for use in the school classroom, this resource can be readily adapted for the church. With opportunity for biblical/theological reflection, it has the potential to be very meaningful to participants.

The authors remind us that there is significant evidence that teaching children about their Convention rights increases their respect for others, decreases bullying and increases self-regulation.

It also offers the opportunity for increased understanding of other's reality, and both their own and other's rights in the face of that reality.

*( It is available in both French and English)*