

July 25, 2022

Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth
c/o Parliamentary Committees Office
Room 224, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing regarding your review of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act* to express my support for several of the recommendations included in the submission from the Representative for Children and Youth.

Part of my statutory responsibility as Human Rights Commissioner is to promote compliance with international human rights obligations. Canada has ratified several United Nations conventions that are directly relevant to the work of the Representative, many of which have not been incorporated into domestic law by federal or provincial governments. As the Representative has argued, referencing these conventions in the *Representative for Children and Youth Act* would visibly and affirmatively reflect the Province's and the Representative's commitment to upholding human rights.

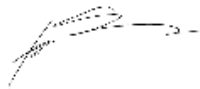
Therefore, I urge the Committee to adopt the following recommendations of the Representative:

- That the Act be amended to require the Representative to take into account the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in carrying out her functions in relation to children and youth
- That the Act be amended to require the Representative to take into account the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in carrying out her functions under the Act
- That the Act be amended to require the Representative to take into account the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in carrying out her functions in relation to young adults who are eligible for CLBC services

More broadly, realizing our international obligations requires that we build a new culture of human rights in British Columbia. While my Office works to develop and deliver public information and education about human rights, change at the societal level requires many actors working together in partnership. I would welcome an explicit role for the Representative in promoting education and awareness of the rights of children and youth set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Thank you for your consideration of these amendments. I hope the Legislature will take this opportunity to advance B.C.'s international human rights obligations through proper recognition in domestic law.

Sincerely,



Kasari Govender
Human Rights Commissioner

CC: Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth, Representative for Children and Youth