

National Child Day

November 20, 2023

The City of Winnipeg's Recreation Services Division has worked in collaboration with **Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education** to recognize National Child Day, marked every year on November 20.

Celebrated since 1993, National Child Day commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (November 20, 1959) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (November 20, 1989). The Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international treaty that recognizes the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children, and provides us with a roadmap of what is needed to raise healthy and happy children.

Once again this fall, various Children's Free Play programs (ages 6-12) were invited to participate by building a "Tree of Children's Rights" at their sites. This activity is prepared by **Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education** and is an easy activity to get children thinking about their rights and expressing which rights are important to them!

After learning about their rights, participants created their **Children's Rights leaves for their trees, posted them, and shared with their communities.**

NEW this fall, children were also invited to participate in a variety of the Unicef National Child Day Toolkit activities, including **Color Your Rights, Make Your Mark: Window Signs, Puppet Show for Your Rights, and DIY Children's Chain of Rights.**



Unicef National Child Day Toolkit Activities

Colour Your Rights

Participants were invited to participate in a colouring activity featuring the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They were able to get creative and learn about each right while coloring the images.

Make Your Mark: Window Signs

Participants were invited to paint, colour, or draw their handprint in blue on the provided signage to raise awareness and showcase their support of National Child Day and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Puppet Show for Your Rights

Participants created puppets and put on a show to talk about children's rights! They all picked a right, created a puppet, and used their puppets to explain to their peers why that right was important to them!

DIY Children's Chain of Rights

Participants created their own chain of rights using paper. Each chain link featured a different right from the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Some program locations then hung their chains at their sites.

10 Free Play Programs and 141 Children

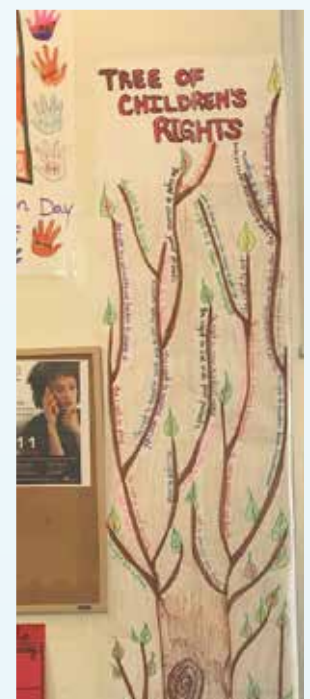
A total of **10 Free Play Programs** and **141 children** participated in the National Child Day celebration this year. This is a dramatic increase from 2022! Program locations posted their Tree of Children's Rights for the community to see or completed various Unicef activities.

The overall feedback from Recreation Technicians and participants was positive. Children reported learning about their rights and challenging themselves. They had fun creating the artwork for their trees, painting their handprints, and participating in the other Unicef activities!

Participating in this celebration allowed participants and our employees to join in the conversation and activities that highlight positive values, children's rights, and inclusion.

This was also an opportunity to be a part of a national event in support of children's rights!

Sites	Participants
East Elmwood Community Centre	15
Prince Edward School	15
Lord Selkirk School	25
Broadway Neighbourhood Centre	6
Burton Cummings Community Centre	2
Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre	24
Norquay Community Centre	16
Ralph Brown Community Centre	16
Mayfair Recreation Centre	13
Lavallee School	9



Testimonials

"The children really liked the activities and it had them talking about their rights as children."

– **Broadway Neighbourhood Centre**

"The kids said they had learned about children's rights in school and the activities reinforced some of the rights of children they already knew."

– **Burton Cummings Community Centre**

"The kids enjoyed colouring the rights. The activities were good for starting conversations about human rights. The kids asked questions and learned more about their rights."

– **Norquay Community Centre**

"The kids really liked the activities and painting their hands and showcasing them in the community centre. They discussed human rights and many of the kids were already knowledgeable of their rights."

– **Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre**

"The children liked making the tree and leaves. The activities added a welcoming and colourful feel to the Mayfair space."

– **Mayfair Recreation Centre**