



CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO MUSIC QUICK FACT SHEET

CANADIAN HERITAGE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

MISSION: to promote the awareness, understanding, respect for and enjoyment of human rights in Canada; to do so through educational and promotional activities involving the public, educators, non-governmental organizations, government departments and others.

CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO MUSIC PROJECT

A Canadian-Heritage sponsored educational project designed to meet its Human Rights mission as it pertains to children with disabilities, specifically in terms of their rights of access to and participation in music making. Particular attention is given to:

- The identification of these rights in the UN's:
 - Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights
 - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- An understanding of the important role music therapy can play in making these rights a reality for children with disabilities

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Purpose: the first instrument to incorporate the complete range of international human rights for children— including *civil, cultural, economic, political and social* rights as well as aspects of humanitarian law.

For more information:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>

<http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL & CULTURAL RIGHTS

Purpose: recognition that the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Recognition that the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy their *economic, social and cultural rights, as well as their civil and political rights*.

For more information: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm>

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Purpose: to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities. This includes such key areas such as accessibility, personal mobility, health, education, employment, habilitation and rehabilitation, participation in political life, and equality and non-discrimination. The convention marks a shift in thinking about disability from a social welfare concern, to a human rights issue, acknowledging that societal barriers and prejudices are themselves disabling.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

AN UNDERSTANDING OF CHILDRENS' RIGHT TO MUSIC IN THE CONTEXT OF THESE UN HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTS

The UN Human Rights documents outline a broad range of rights for children with disabilities which include social and cultural rights; in particular, these include full enjoyment of the rights to music, music making, and active participation in the community, within the full scope of its social and cultural life.

Children's Right to Music Project Objectives:

1. To increase awareness of the full scope of the rights of children with disabilities
2. To increase understanding of, resources for, and skills in making music accessible to children with disabilities.
3. To accomplish these objective with an understanding that:
 - a. Educators and educational administrators play a critical role in terms of policy and decision making as well as in service provision;
 - b. Parents can play an equally pivotal role in acting as advocates for their children;
 - c. Music therapists can provide invaluable support in ensuring enjoyment of these rights; and
 - d. Success will include an immediate impact in the lives of children, as well as later in terms of their life-long participation in music making as adults.





CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO MUSIC DETAILED RIGHTS FACT SHEET

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Convention Articles Relevant to Children's Right to Music:

- Article 4 addresses children's economic, social, and cultural rights
- Article 23 recognizes the rights of children with disabilities to enjoy a full life with "conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance, and facilitate the child's active participation in the community"; as well, assistance should be provided that "shall be designed to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and **recreation opportunities** in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the **fullest possible social integration** and individual development, including his or her **cultural** and spiritual development"

- Article 29 recognizes that children’s education should “be directed to the development of the child’s personality, **talent**, and mental and physical abilities to the fullest potential
- Article 31 identifies the importance of promoting the child’s right to “participate fully in **cultural life and the arts**”
- Article 42 identifies the responsibility to disseminate information about the Convention to adults and children

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<http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

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Purpose: recognition that the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Recognition that the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy their *economic, social and cultural rights, as well as their civil and political rights*.

Convention Articles Relevant to Children’s Right to Music:

- Article 1: All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they ... freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
- Article 3: ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant.
- Article 15 recognizes “the right of everyone to take part in cultural life”. This is specifically and explicitly addressed in Children’s Right to Music, in terms of children’s rights in this regard, as well as in terms of how this plays out across their life span.

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Convention Articles Relevant to Children’s Right to Music:

- Article 3 identifies the rights of people with disabilities, including children, to “**full and effective participation** and inclusion in society

- Article 4 addresses issues of training and resources necessary to ensure full economic, **social, and cultural rights**
- Article 7 addresses the specific rights of children with disabilities
- Article 8 identifies the critical importance of increasing awareness combatting stereotypes, and acknowledging the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities
- Article 19 acknowledges the right for full inclusion in the community
- Article 24, **of particular relevance** to the Children’s Right to Music, identifies the importance of educational resources in the “development by persons with disabilities of their **personality, talents and creativity**, as well as their mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential
- Article 30, **also of particular relevance** to this project, identifies the **right to participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure** and sport
- Article 32 addresses the importance of “facilitating and supporting capacity building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices” on an international level

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