



# 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.

