

Celebrating children's rights

November 20th has been proclaimed National Child Day in Edmonton, celebrating the future leaders of our city and their rights. National Child Day is proclaimed annually in recognition of two historic events: the [United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child](#) signing in 1959, and the adoption of the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) in 1989.

"Children deserve to be recognized as important contributors to our community and as our city's future leaders," said Mayor Don Iveson. "Today is a great reminder to ourselves that we must try to do everything we can to maximize opportunities for children to thrive in our city."

This year's theme is "It's Our Right to Learn." The theme highlights the rights children have to quality education; special education if they have a disability; education that helps develop and utilize their talents; and education that is respectful of others and the environment.

"Learning is a child's fundamental right and is a key to healthy childhood development," said Del Graff, Child and Youth Advocate. "Unfortunately, some young people have limited opportunities for learning. We encourage all young people and their guardians to learn about the basic human rights young people are entitled to, and to take the time to participate in some of the events for National Child Day."

Edmonton's National Child Day events are organized by a collaborative group of committed community organizations and agencies. The success of National Child Day events in Edmonton is due to the ongoing support of the collaborative.

"National Child Day is an opportunity to recognize the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as share in celebration with community the importance of children and youth as citizens of our community," said Mary Stewart Interim Director of Children and Youth at the United Way. "This year, the Right to Learn aligns with the critical work United Way is doing in the education focus area ensuring that children have the best start in the early years and also have the supports they need to be successful in school."

National Child Day is part of the the City of Edmonton's Child Friendly Edmonton initiative. Edmonton is a child friendly city that welcomes and involves children and youth, while promoting their well-being and safety. It fosters the rights of young people as contributing members of society who have a sense of ownership and voice in their community.

[Child Friendly Edmonton](#), in spirit of cooperation and collaboration, works with citizens, community groups and orders of government to create the best possible results for children and their families.

For more information:

Visit edmonton.ca/childfriendly

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