

Raise your hand for Canada's children

#RaiseYourHand4Kids

While Canada is the 5th most prosperous country in the world, we are ranked 17th out of 29 affluent nations for our children's wellbeing, and we drop to the bottom ranks for key measures on children's health and safety, as well as child poverty. The facts are deeply alarming:

- 1 in 5 kids lives in poverty
- 1 in 5 teens has considered suicide
- 1 in 3 children has experienced some form of child abuse
- 1 child dies every 9 hours from preventable injuries

The kids are not alright, and it's time for Canada to measure up!

It is not enough to say that children are our future. Those words mean nothing unless backed up by concrete actions to invest in children right now.

Every child deserves a champion, and that's why the Government of Canada needs to establish a Federal Commissioner for Children and Youth – an independent official to promote the best interests of children. By holding the government accountable, and speaking with or on behalf of children, the newly appointed Commissioner would collaborate with and complement the work of the Prime Minister's Youth Council and other measures that exist to improve the lives of young people.

#RaiseYourHand4Kids and ask the Government of Canada to keep their promise to Canada's kids and appoint a Federal Commissioner for Children and Youth.

How can I get involved?

- Send a letter to the [Prime Minister](#) and your [Member of Parliament](#) asking them to #RaiseYourHand4Kids and appoint a Federal Commissioner for Children and Youth.
- Share a photo of your handprint with your name and age on social media with the hashtag #RaiseYourHand4Kids and make sure to tag [@JustinTrudeau](#).
- Post on your social media accounts using the #RaiseYourHand4Kids hashtag.
- Retweet [@children1stca](#) and others who are spreading the word.
- Reply to messages with the #RaiseYourHand4Kids hashtag. This can be something as simple as "Thanks for sharing!"
- Share your own #RaiseYourHand4Kids posts with the hashtag, such as sharing photos with your handprint or of you and friends/colleagues raising your hands.

Below are a few example posts to promote the campaign, but we also encourage you to write your own posts using **#RaiseYourHand4Kids**



#RaiseYourHand4Kids

Every child deserves a champion. I'm calling on @JustinTrudeau to establish a Federal Commissioner for Children & Youth #RaiseYourHand4Kids

#RaiseYourHand4Kids & tell @JustinTrudeau to establish a federal Commissioner for Children and Youth .[insert your member of parliament's twitter handle here] please #RaiseYourHand4Kids & help establish a Federal Commissioner for Children and Youth

It's time for Canada's Prime Minister @JustinTrudeau to establish a Federal Commissioner for Children and Youth! #RaiseYourHand4Kids

Will you #RaiseYourHand4Kids? Ask @JustinTrudeau to establish a Federal Commissioner for Children and Youth today.

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau [*or your Member of Parliament*],

It's time for you to keep your promise to Canada's kids and appoint a Federal Commissioner for Children and Youth. Your government campaigned on this promise, and it's time for action!

A Federal Commissioner for Children and Youth would raise the profile of children's issues, promote their interests and speak on their behalf.

Children's Commissioners have been established in more than 60 countries, including Sweden, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. It's a proven strategy to improve results for children; in the UK, the Children's Commissioner helped improve their international rankings for child wellbeing by 5 points! That's measurable change for children.

The Commissioner should follow international best practices. These are the essential elements:

- Be independent
- Be established in legislation
- Have a broad mandate that includes the power to investigate, raise awareness, and monitor progress
- Have a high level officer dedicated to protecting the rights of indigenous children
- Have a statutory obligation to listen to and involve children

I'm raising my hand to support Canada's children, and I hope you will too!

Sincerely,

INSERT YOUR SIGNATURE ALONG WITH YOUR HANDPRINT



