

Provincial & Regional Partners:

Aboriginal Mother Centre Society
ACT Autism Community Training Society
Adoptive Families Association of BC
Affiliation of Multicultural Societies & Service Agencies
Alternate Shelter Society
Association for Community Education BC
Autism Society of BC
BC Aboriginal Childcare Society
BC Assoc. for Child Development & Rehabilitation
BC Association for Community Living
BC Association for Play Therapy
BC Association of Child Care Employers
BC Association of Family Resource Programs
BC Association of Pregnancy Outreach Programs
BC Association of Social Workers
BC Council for Families
BC Crime Prevention Association
BC Farm Women's Network
BC Federation of Foster Parents Association
BC Government & Service Employees' Union
BC Institute Against Family Violence
BC Pediatric Society • BC Recreation and Parks Association
BC School Trustees Association
BC Teachers' Federation
BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses
Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland
Boys & Girls Clubs of BC
Canadian Association for Young Children
Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region
Canadian Mental Health Association BC Division
Canadian Red Cross • Capilano Student Union
Caring for First Nations Children Society
Centre for Safe Schools and Communities
Cerebral Palsy Association of BC
Child & Family Counseling Association
Child & Youth Care Association of BC
Child Care Advocacy Forum
Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
Council of Parent Participation Preschools BC
Deaf Children's Society of BC
Dietitians of Canada, BC Region
Developmental Disabilities Association
Early Childhood Educators of BC
East Kootenay Childhood Coalition
Family Services of Greater Vancouver
Federated Anti-Poverty Groups
Federation of BC Youth In Care Networks
Federation of Child & Family Services of BC
Health Officers Council of BC
Hospital Employees' Union
Infant Development Program of BC
Invest in Kids • Immigrant Services Society
Justice Institute of BC
Learning Disabilities Association of BC
Literacy BC • McCreary Centre Society
MOSAIC • National Council of Jewish Women
Pacific Association of First Nations Women
Pacific Community Resources Society
Pacific Legal Education Association • PARCA
Parent Support Services Society • PeerNetBC
Penticton & District Community Resources Society
Phoenix Human Services Association
Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society
Public Health Association of BC
Social Planning & Research Council BC
Society for Children & Youth of BC
Society for Public Education of BC
Society of Special Needs Adoptive Parents
Sunshine Coast Community Services Society
Toxic Free Canada
United Way of the Lower Mainland
Vancouver Coastal Health – Population Health
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre
Westcoast Family Resources Society
Working Group on Poverty • YWCA of Greater Vancouver
...and 26 Community Coalition Partners.

January 30, 2009

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

In December, the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children and 30 other respected organizations and individuals wrote to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, requesting a meeting to offer expert advice and support to your government in repatriating Mr. Omar Khadr in compliance with the obligations under international covenants Canada has signed and committed to uphold. I have attached a copy of the letter for your reference.

I am writing to you on behalf of First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition to urge your government to take up this valuable offer of help from experts in child and youth rights, and to expeditiously begin discussions with the new United States administration to bring Mr. Khadr home to Canada. This would help restore Canada's reputation at home and abroad as a country that understands and acts on its human rights commitments.

First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition is a cross-sectoral, non-partisan coalition of over 80 provincial and regional organizations and 25 community coalitions around BC. Coalition partners work together on public education and community initiatives to promote healthy physical, social, economic, and policy environments for children and youth, and to promote the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Our coalition partners are interested in Canada's performance on this issue, and we would appreciate a reply explaining your intentions in regards to Mr. Khadr and your response to the request to meet from the signatories to the attached letter.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

Adrienne Montani
Provincial Coordinator