

**Provincial & Regional Partners:**

ACT – Autism Community Training Society  
Adoptive Families Association of BC  
Affiliat'n of Multicultural Societies & Service Agencies  
Alternate Shelter Society  
Association for Community Education 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 Early Years Alliance  
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 & Parks Assoc.  
BC School Trustees Association  
BC Teachers' Federation  
BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses  
Boys & Girls Clubs of BC  
Canadian Association for Young Children  
Canadian Mental Health Association BC Division  
Canadian Red Cross • Capilano Student Union  
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  
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  
Fulcrum Project • Infant Development Program of BC  
Institute for Safe Schools of BC  
International Dyslexia Association, BC Branch  
Justice Institute of BC  
Labour Environmental Alliance Society  
Learning Disabilities Association of BC  
Literacy BC • McCreary Centre Society  
MOSAIC • Nisika Community Services  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Pacific Association of First Nations Women  
Pacific Community Resources Society  
Pacific Legal Education Association /PARCA  
Parent Support Services Society of BC  
Penticton & District Community Resources Society  
Public Health Association of BC  
Self Help Resource 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  
United Way of the Lower Mainland  
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre  
Westcoast Family Resources Society  
Working Group on Poverty  
YWCA of Greater Vancouver

**Community Coalition Partners:** 100 Mile House, Abbotsford, Armstrong, Burnaby, Chilliwack, Delta, Duncan, Fraser North, Golden, Grand Forks, Houston, Kamloops, Kelowna, Langley, Maple Ridge/ Pitt Meadows, Port Alberni, Prince George, Salmon Arm, Smithers, Squamish, Surrey, Terrace, Vancouver, Vancouver Aboriginal Council, Vernon, Victoria, Williams Lake

August 24, 2007

The Right Hon. Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of our coalition of partner organizations, communities and individuals in the First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition who come together to promote the well-being of children and youth in BC.

With the conclusion of your recent meeting with U.S. President Bush and Mexican President Calderon as part of the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) project, we were disappointed to note the lack of attention given to the well-being of North America's children and youth in your agenda. As noted by the Canadian Council on Social Development, the omission of a serious focus on children and youth in the SPP project goals ignores the fact that children's health and well-being today are crucial to the future health of our economies and our collective security.

All of the SPP goals need to be examined through the lens of their impact on children, youth and families, the building blocks of our society. We would be wise to put the principle of the best interests of children and youth at the top of the list of priorities in any proposed legislative, regulatory or policy changes, whether this is considering "harmonizing" regulations governing environmental toxins, traded products or safety protocols, or what information to collect to inform these decisions.

We urge you to become a champion for the continent's children and youth by introducing a new focus on the social determinants of health for children and their families into the work of the SPP project. These social determinants reflect the environments children are exposed to, ranging from the family to the broader socioeconomic context shaped by government policy, international agreements, business activity and civil society. There is a wealth of excellent Canadian and international research to draw upon underscoring the importance of supporting and protecting the healthy development of children, particularly in their early years when they are most vulnerable to environmental impacts.

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As a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Canada has committed to the principle of promoting and protecting children's rights. These rights are the foundation of children's health and well-being. We urge you to renew our government's commitment to implementing the Convention in the work of the SPP and all other government leadership activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrienne Montani". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Adrienne Montani  
Provincial Coordinator

Copies: Jack Layton, NDP leader  
Stephane Dion, Liberal Party leader  
Hon. Tony Clement, Minister of Health  
Hon. Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development  
All BC Members of Parliament