

# Annual Report 2009/2010



Child and Youth Advocate  
New Brunswick



2009/2010 Annual Report

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Province of New Brunswick  
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February 1, 2011

Ms. Loredana Catalli Sonier

Clerk

Legislative Assembly

Province of New Brunswick

Fredericton, NB

Madam:

Pursuant to Subsection 25(1) of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Child and Youth Advocate for the period of April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernard Richard

Child and Youth Advocate

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## Employees

### Employees

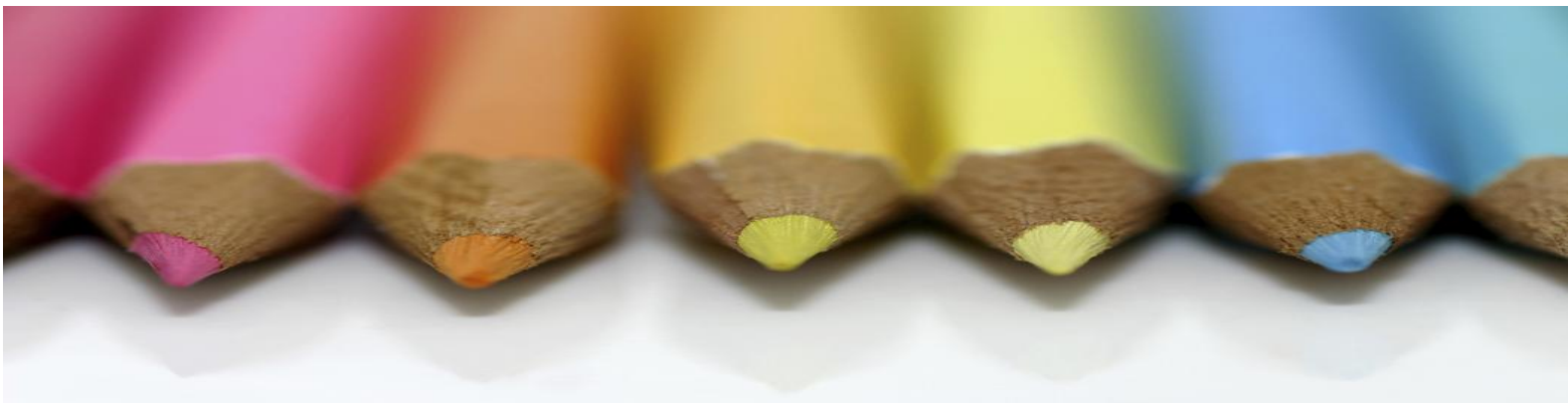
Albert, Jessica  
 Basque, Lyne  
 Bourque, Annette<sup>†</sup>  
 Cantin, Francine<sup>†</sup>  
 Cronkhite, Amy  
 Daigle, Jennifer  
 Dickison, Julie  
 Doyle, Anne  
 Gilliland, Steve  
 Guthrie, Janel  
 Hébert, Sylvie  
 Jardine, Kathryn  
 LeBlanc, Mélanie  
 Levert, François  
 Levesque, Marie-Josée\*  
 Murray, Jennifer\*  
 Richard, Bernard  
 Savoie, Robert  
 Whalen, Christian  
 Woods, Marcelle<sup>†</sup>

### Work Title

Investigator  
 Investigator  
 Clinical Director  
 Clinical Director  
 Administrative Assistant  
 Investigator  
 Executive Secretary  
 Investigator/Social Worker  
 Executive Director  
 Administrative Assistant  
 Investigator/Social Worker  
 Investigator/Legal Officer  
 Investigator/Social Worker  
 Investigator/Legal Officer  
 Investigator  
 Investigator/Legal Officer  
 Ombudsman/Child and Youth Advocate  
 Investigator  
 Legal Counsel  
 Clinical Director

\*Part-time

<sup>†</sup>Part of the year



## From the Advocate

In an attempt to further improve the clarity of our reporting to New Brunswick citizens, I have decided to publish separate annual reports for the Ombudsman and the Child and Youth Advocate responsibilities of my office. The 2009-2010 fiscal year will mark the first time this has happened. This approach will highlight how much of our resources and focus we have chosen to invest in children's issues.

### Ombudsman

The bulk of the individual complaints that come to our office arrive under the *Ombudsman Act*. In 2009-2010, 2,868 of our 3,325 complaints were dealt with in my role as Ombudsman. Most of the others related to child advocacy while the remainder pertained to access to information, the protection of privacy and *Civil Service Act* issues.

As usual, the Ombudsman complaints spanned the broad range of government services, from prison conditions to road conditions, from income assistance to injured workers, and from family court services to mental health issues. We have certainly noticed that a growing number of complainants are difficult to deal with for a variety of reasons; many have difficulty accepting that we are limited in our work by the legislation that guides us. We cannot review police work, disbar lawyers or remove judges from the bench, although we have been asked to do precisely these things.

My biggest concern is our continued lack of authority to examine complaints that relate to nursing homes and special care homes. While I first wrote about this in my very first annual report, legislators have so far not deemed it advisable to expand our jurisdiction to include this most vulnerable group of citizens.



## **Civil Service Act**

Changes to the *Civil Service Act* in December 2009 caught our attention and are a cause for some concern. Since then, persons who are unsuccessful in competitions for government positions can only come to the Ombudsman if they are alleging favoritism. As well, the Ombudsman no longer has general authority to make inquiries and recommendations under the *Civil Service Act*. These changes, in effect, make it easier for government to appoint people to positions without the need for competitions, harder for anyone to contest these appointments and more difficult for the Ombudsman to investigate any allegations on his own initiative.

## **Right to Information and Privacy**

It was very encouraging during the past fiscal year to note the legislative developments which occurred in relation to the right to information and privacy laws in New Brunswick. A new independent commissioner's office will give the new legislation the dedicated resources and expertise required to better promote and protect the rights of all New Brunswickers in this area. The number of matters to be dealt with is sure to grow as doctors, pharmacists and other health professionals become "custodians" under the health privacy legislation. Some 98 inquiries and complaints came our way over the past year in this area of jurisdiction.

## **Child and Youth Advocacy**

As has been the case every year since 2006, our main focus in 2009-2010 has been children. The concerns brought to our attention vary greatly in this regard, including children in need of protection, youth dealing with mental health issues or behaviour disorders, youth dealing with the criminal justice system and special needs students in our schools. Very often there is a combination of factors and government departments involved with a variety of officials and service providers. While these



situations are rarely easy for us to deal with, they are on most occasions absolutely frustrating for parents.

It is with this in mind that we undertook work on a number of systemic investigations in 2009-2010.

1. *Protection of Vulnerable Newborn Children: A Holistic Approach* was published in September 2009. It followed the tragic death of a newborn baby in the St. Stephen area, one of a few similar deaths in the previous two years...far too many. The report contains six recommendations that would improve services for at-risk mothers.
2. *There Ought to be a Law* was published in November 2009. It examines the risks faced by children online, both from commercial and sexual exploitation. Though it was prepared by our office, it is the result of the efforts of a Working Group of Canadian Privacy Commissioners and Child and Youth Advocates.
3. In late November 2009, we published our second annual State of our Children and Youth report, *A Clearer Picture: A statistical backgrounder to the 2009 State of our Children and Youth Address*. This year's report paid particular attention to Canada's commitments (and New Brunswick's obligations) under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its adoption.
4. Lastly, in February 2010, we published *Hand-in-Hand: A Review of First Nations Child Welfare in New Brunswick*. It is a review of First Nations child welfare and the significant challenges faced by First Nations children. Much has been written and said about this report and it remains at year end an area of considerable activity for our office.

The *Hand-in-Hand* review actually marked the first time a government department requested our office to conduct an arm's length examination of an issue with which it was confronted. This in itself is a remarkable

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development and one that bodes well for the future of the Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate mandates.

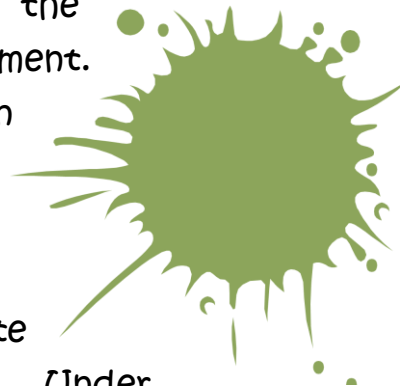
As always, I remain thankful for the capable and dedicated members of my staff who allow us to cover so much systemic ground while dealing with over 3,000 individual complaints every year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Richard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bernard Richard  
Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate

## The Child and Youth Advocate

The Child and Youth Advocate is an Officer of the Legislative Assembly and is independent of government. The Child and Youth Advocate is appointed and can only be removed upon the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly.



The Child and Youth Advocate acts as an advocate for the rights and interests of children and youth. Under

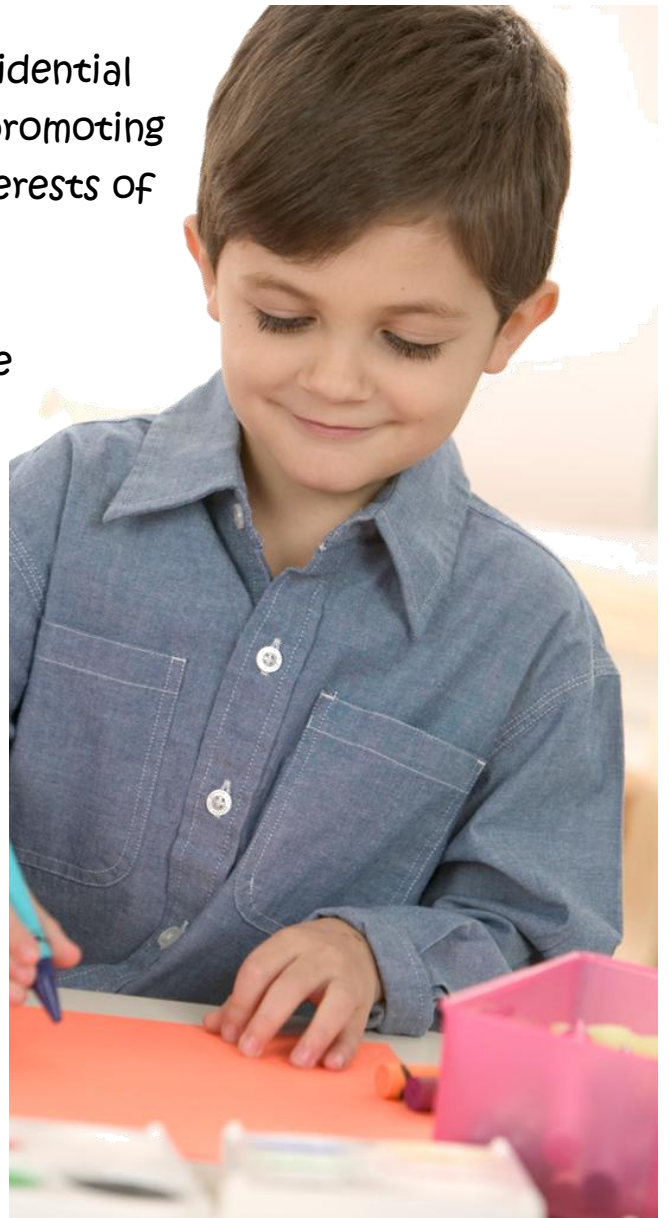
the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, the advocate is responsible for ensuring that the rights and interests of children and youth are protected and that their views are heard and considered in appropriate forums where those views might not otherwise be advanced. Pursuant to the advocate's mandate under the Act, the advocate also provides information and advice to government agencies and officials about the availability, effectiveness, responsiveness, and relevance of services to children and youths.



## Goals

The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate is committed to the following goals:

1. To conduct independent, confidential investigations with the goal of promoting and protecting the rights and interests of children and youth.
2. To provide efficient, effective and accessible services to every child and youth within the framework of the human and fiscal resources provided.
3. To review policies, procedures, legislation, and regulations to advance the rights and interests of children and youth and, where appropriate, to provide information and advice to government agencies and officials about the availability, effectiveness, responsiveness, and relevance of services to children and youth.



## What the Child and Youth Advocate Can Do

The Child and Youth Advocate and his staff, pursuant to the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, have the ability to assist children and youth by:

- Listening to their needs and concerns
- Ensuring that their rights and interests are protected
- Making sure their views are heard in the appropriate forums
- Investigating complaints they may have about how previous situations were handled by government agencies
- Ensuring they have proper access to the appropriate services
- Continually monitoring laws and policies to make sure they are not only fair to children and youth, but that they are followed properly as well
- Reporting on the availability, effectiveness, responsiveness and relevance of child and youth services in the community
- Acting as an advocate for the rights and interests of children and youth in general



## What the Child and Youth Advocate Can't Do

The Child and Youth Advocate and his staff do not act as advocates for the rights and interests of parents or adults nor do they act as legal counsel in any fashion.



## Child and Youth Advocate Act

The *Child and Youth Advocate Act* received Royal Assent on June 30, 2004;



however no one was appointed to the position until October 26, 2006 when the Ombudsman agreed to assume responsibility for this legislation to ensure that children and youths' rights and interests are protected in government policy, programs and services.

Section 2 of the Act outlines the Advocate's responsibilities as:

- (a) ensuring that the rights and interests of children and youths are protected;
- (b) ensuring that the views of children and youths are heard and considered in appropriate forums, where those views might not otherwise be advanced;
- (c) ensuring that children and youths have access to services, and that complaints children and youths might have about those services receive appropriate attention;
- (d) providing information and advice to the government, government agencies, and communities, about the availability, effectiveness, responsiveness, and relevance of services to children and youths; and
- (e) acting as an advocate for the rights and interests of children and youths generally.

The Advocate is not to act as legal counsel. In carrying out the functions and duties of the Office, the Advocate may pursuant to subsection 13(1):

(a) receive and review a matter relating to a child, a youth, or a group of children or youths;

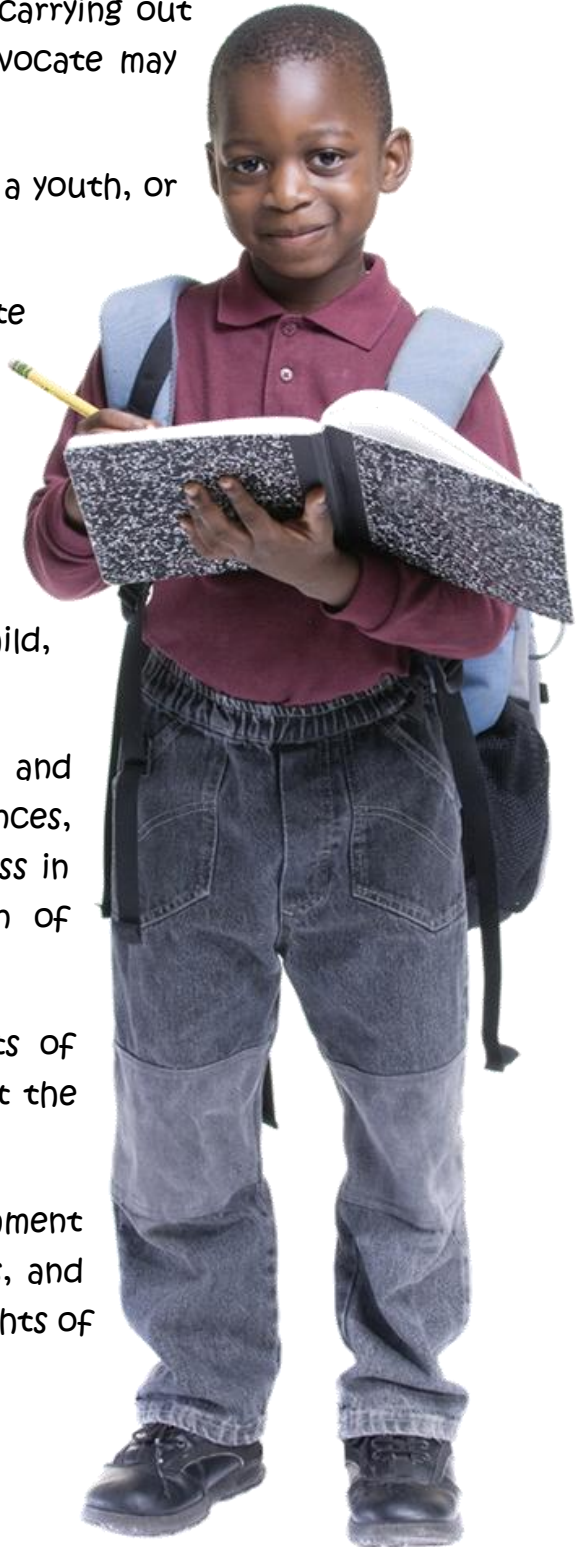
(b) advocate or mediate or use another dispute resolution process on behalf of a child, youth, or a group of children or youths;

(c) if advocacy, mediation or another dispute resolution process has not resulted in an outcome the Advocate deems satisfactory, conduct an investigation on behalf of the child, youth, or group of children or youths;

(d) initiate and participate in, or assist children and youths to initiate and participate in case conferences, administrative review, mediation, or other process in which decisions are made about the provision of services;

(e) inform the public about the needs and rights of children and youths, including information about the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate;

(f) make recommendations to the government or an authority about legislation, policies, and practices, respecting services to or the rights of children and youths.





## Requests for Advocacy under the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*



Some requests for advocacy come directly from the child or youth in question, but the vast majority come from someone else concerning a child or youth. Regardless of who is originating the request for advocacy, the focus of the CYA is the best interest of the child at all times. It is a child centered approach. This is consistent with a recent Supreme Court of Canada judgment in *SYI Apps Secure*

*Treatment Centre v. B. D.*, July 27, 2007.

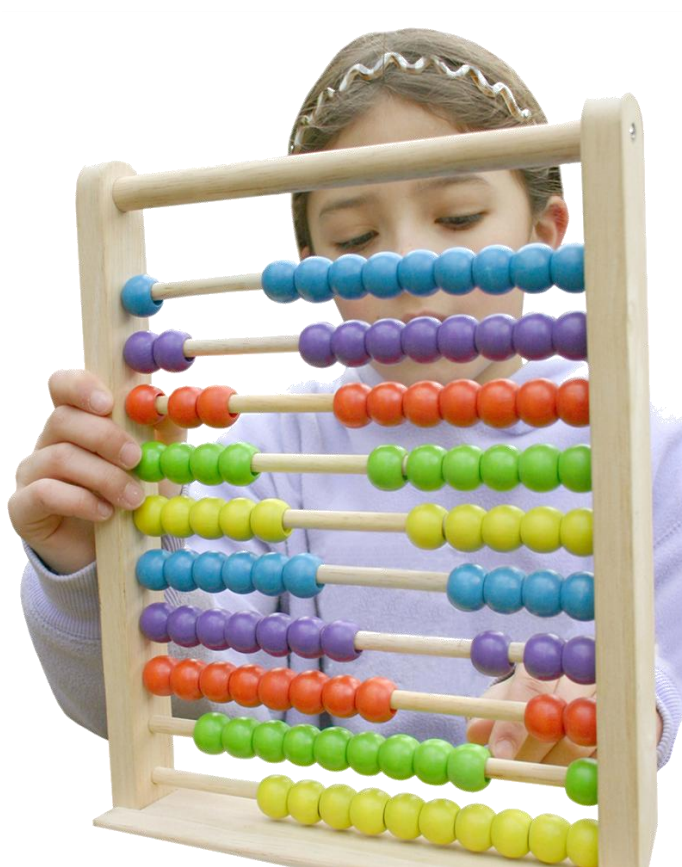
CYA investigations tend to be lengthy. It is important to keep a relationship with the referral source active and to make contact on a regular basis to provide and receive information on the case.

Case sensitivity is extremely important in CYA cases; much of the information is confidential.



## 2009/2010 Statistics

In the period covered by this annual report a total of **338** files were opened under the Child and Youth Advocate Act. Most of the complaints came from family members, not from children or youths. A few came from concerned citizens or government officials.



## Financial Information

The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate is currently part of the Office of the Ombudsman which has responsibilities under the following six Statutes: *Ombudsman Act, Civil Service Act, Right to Information Act, Archives Act, Protection of Personal Information Act, and the Child and Youth Advocate Act*. The following financial information is based on the operations of the entire Office and its responsibilities under the six Statutes.

	Budget	Actual
Wages and Benefits	\$1,279,400	\$1,420,945
Other Services	\$243,000	\$175,774
Materials and Supplies	\$30,500	\$23,408
Property and Equipment	\$26,100	\$19,388
Contributions and Grants	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,679,000	\$1,639,624



# Case Studies

## Haunted by the Past

Our office was contacted by a loving mother and father who were having trouble dealing with their teenage son Sam\*, whom they had adopted from a developing country when he was 10. Sam was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) resulting from the violence and poverty he experienced before arriving in New Brunswick. Sam had trouble dealing with his anger and had violent outbursts at home and at school. Sam was two years older and much bigger than his classmates and was bullied and taunted. He was eventually suspended from school for fighting.

Although they were trying to provide a loving and supportive home, Sam's parents knew that the gang lifestyle in which their son had spent his early years had had a lasting effect on him. To their dismay, his behaviour became increasingly erratic and aggressive and one day he was caught on video committing an armed robbery with two other boys.



Sam was remanded to the New Brunswick Youth Centre (NBYC), where his problems continued. He was involved in an altercation with another youth and was accused of assaulting a correctional officer. Sam's family was receiving support from a social worker, but as Sam's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday loomed, they feared his services would be cut off due to legislation that limited child protection services to those younger than 16. Their social worker was determined to stay involved with the case and with our office's support was able to keep the case open based on legislated "special circumstances."

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\* Fictional name.



Sam was released from NBYC and sentenced to house arrest with the conditions that he attend school and have no contact with his co-accused. Because Sam's two accomplices attended the same high school, his parents requested a transfer to another school. However, the parents did not reveal Sam's legal troubles as the reason for the transfer, and the school board denied the transfer because with the limited information they had, he did not meet the criteria for a transfer.

Sam returned to his old high school and for a while things seemed to be getting better. But he was involved in another fight at school and the police were called. Once again, he was suspended from school.

Sam was transferred to another high school where he attended half days and began to turn his life around. He became involved in fundraising efforts to help the people in his native country along with his biological sister who was adopted by another New Brunswick family. Sam and his family continued to benefit from support from his probation officer, a counselor who had built up a strong relationship with him, a social worker from the Department of Social Development, the John Howard Society and our office.

## The Right to an Education

Three young children had immigrated to New Brunswick from France with their parents, who planned to settle here permanently. Their parents had not yet been able to obtain their permanent status owing to difficulties with the immigration process. The three boys had therefore not attended school for two years as a result of strict application of the *Education Act*.



A complaint was submitted to the Child and Youth Advocate asking that he intervene in favour of the children's right to education. After an investigation, we suggested that the Minister of Education make use of section 8(3) of the *Education Act*, which enables him to "provide free school privileges" for persons in the situation these children are in. The Minister accepted the recommendation and informed us that the three children would be permitted to attend public school the following semester.

### When children really do come first!



Hospital staff were concerned for a baby's safety and contacted our office. The infant was scheduled to return to her parents' home after a short stay in pediatric care, but there were concerns regarding the baby's weight, the parents' lack of "attachment" to the child and other risk factors that were considered serious.

Although our review of the facts confirmed a high level of risk, the Department of Social Development opted to prepare a "plan of safety" and allow the baby to return home from the hospital. We continued to share our concerns regarding the urgency of the situation with Social Development and after close monitoring on their part, the infant was soon taken into temporary

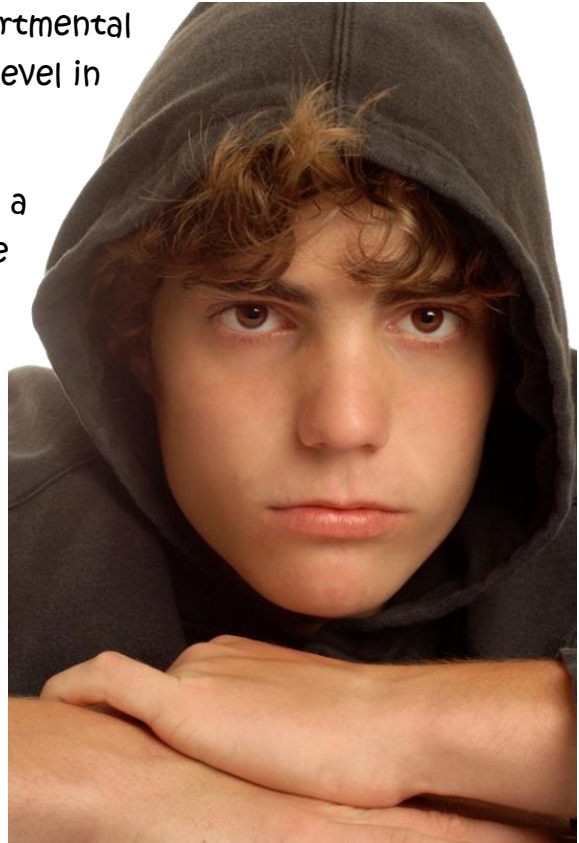
care and placed with a family member. We believe this was necessary as it was our view that this infant's safety and well-being had already been compromised.

We are happy to report that according to our latest information the child is doing well.

## When Can I Go “Home”?

On several occasions, we have witnessed the challenges that government departments face when developing tailored placements or services to meet the needs of children and youth who are grappling with very complex behavioral and mental health issues. In some situations, the needs of these children and youth surpass regional capacity. In those instances, the departments involved usually refer the cases to the Interdepartmental Complex Case Committee at the provincial level in order to develop a coordinated response.

While waiting for his community placement, a preadolescent boy named Joel\* spent more than a year in the Provincial Child/Adolescent Psychiatric Unit in Moncton. This resource is primarily meant to be utilized as an assessment facility aimed at developing a treatment plan that can be carried out in the community. The average stay of a child or youth on this unit is approximately one month. However, Joel was kept in the unit well beyond any reasonable time because there were no available residential facilities equipped to deal with the challenges his behaviors



presented while adequately responding to his mental health needs. Joel's inappropriate behaviors, along with his impulsivity and probability of a pervasive developmental disorder, make it such that he needs constant supervision and guidance.

For well over a year, Joel would see many other children and youth being admitted and discharged on a weekly basis. He often asked when he would get to go “home” to his community placement and would become discouraged every time his discharge date was rescheduled to a much later date.

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\* Fictional name.



Our office was involved in advocating for Joel as it became more and more apparent that the Complex Case process utilized for developing and creating placements for youth was itself becoming an obstacle to a timely placement. Concerned that a “bureaucratic process” should not hinder service providers from meeting Joel’s needs, we advocated regularly by speaking with various service providers and by participating in meetings and case conferences.

As a result of our advocacy and the continued work of the government departments and service providers who kept pushing ahead despite many setbacks, Joel now resides in a therapeutic group home that is equipped with the services of a well-trained clinical staff capable of responding to crisis situations while ensuring that Joel is able to attend school for a few hours per week, spend time with his family and take part in community activities.

Joel now has a place to call “home.”

## Special Publications

### Hand-in-Hand: A Review of First Nations Child Welfare in New Brunswick

*Hand-in-Hand: A Review of First Nations Child Welfare in New Brunswick* calls for sweeping changes to the First Nations child welfare system, including the reduction of the number of agencies to three from the current 11. It calls for the establishment of a single First Nations Child and Family Services Office that would provide financial and administrative functions to the three agencies, and makes further recommendations related to funding, governance, service delivery standards, training and accountability.

The report also delves into the deep-seated issues affecting First Nations communities, such as poverty, drug addictions, domestic violence, and the erosion of the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet cultures and languages.

“My objective was to recommend changes that will reduce the duplication of administrative work being done in each community in order to maximize frontline social work services,” said Mr. Richard. “In my view, it is necessary to maintain and augment the number of social workers in each community who provide culturally based services and to give them access to the same resources employed by social workers in the rest of the province.”



## A Clearer Picture: A statistical backgrounder to the 2009 State of our Children and Youth Address

The annual State of our Children and Youth address provides insight into the well-being of the province's children and youth, particularly with regard to key indicators such as health, education and social conditions, and enables our office to evaluate and monitor the province's success in ensuring the rights of its children are upheld.



The 2009 address was delivered by Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate Bernard Richard at École Sainte-Anne in Fredericton. The release of the accompanying report, entitled *A Clearer Picture: A statistical backgrounder to the 2009 State of our Children and Youth Address*, coincided with the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations' International Convention on the Rights of the Child, the principles of which served as the basis for the report.

"This year, we have focused on how the province as a whole is measuring up to the obligations set forth in the convention," said Mr. Richard. "We have been able to provide a more comprehensive overview of the state of our children and supply year-over-year comparisons. It is my hope that the report can be

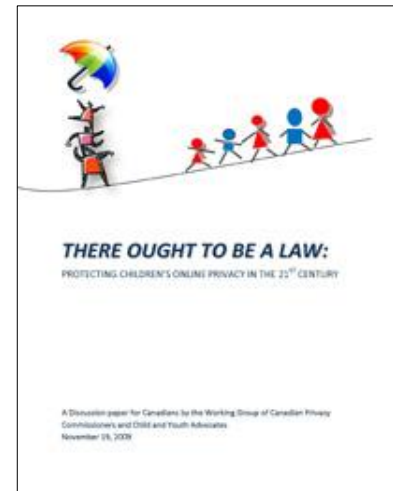


used as a tool to identify opportunities to improve the quality of life among the children and youth of New Brunswick."

*Mr. Richard poses with High School students from Fredericton High School, Leo Hayes High School and École Sainte-Anne following the State of our Children and Youth Address. November 20, 2009.*

## There Ought to be a Law: Protecting Children's Online Privacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The Children's Online Privacy Working Group began its work in January 2009 on the initiative of Canadian provincial child and youth advocates and privacy commissioners. Comprised of a representative number of commissioners and advocates from across the country and chaired by New Brunswick Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate Bernard Richard, the Working Group looked at the issue of children's online privacy through the dual lenses of the commercialization of children's online space, including advertising directly to children and the use of children's online space for commercial data-mining purposes, and protecting children from the dangers of the Internet, including child pornography, exploitation and luring. The Working Group also explored the emerging risks to children's privacy posed by misuse of social networking sites, cyber-bullying, sexting and online defamation.



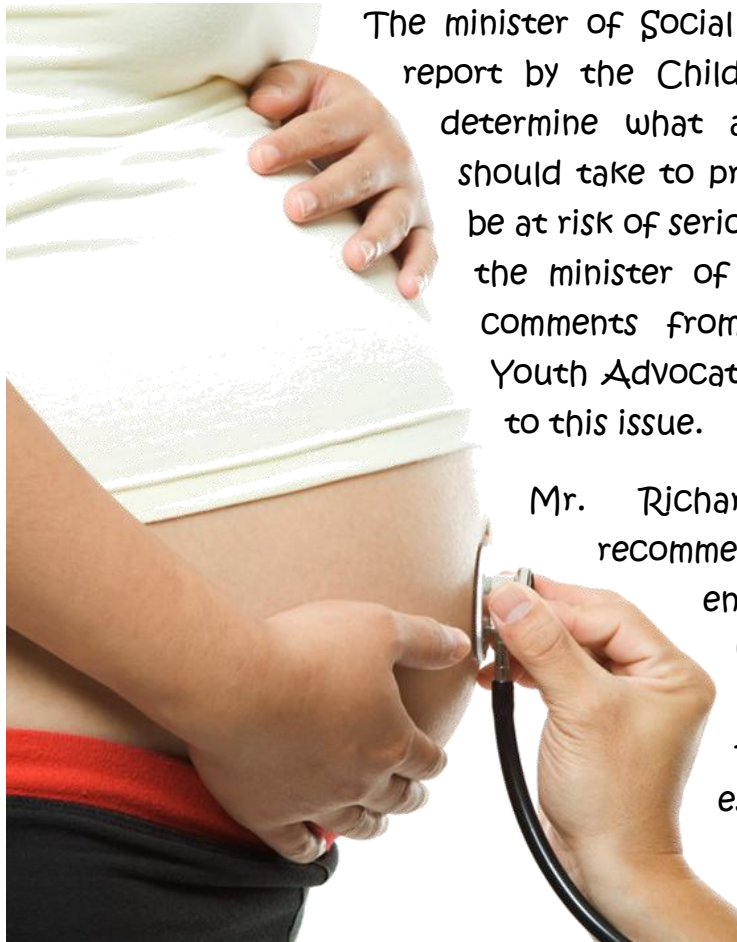
*There Ought to be a Law: Protecting Children's Online Privacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* summarizes and outlines some of the legislative provisions discussed during a two-day Working Group seminar in Fredericton, as options for further study and law reform. Much of the discussion in Fredericton focused on identifying the harms and determining whether constitutional, statutory or social norms would be most effective in addressing them.





## Protection of Vulnerable Newborn Children: A Holistic Approach

*Protection of Vulnerable Newborn Children: A Holistic Approach* was released by the Office of the Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate following the death of a newborn whose parents were known to Social Development.



The minister of Social Development was advised in a report by the Child Death Review Committee to determine what actions the minister could or should take to protect unborn children who may be at risk of serious harm or death. Subsequently, the minister of Social Development requested comments from Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate Bernard Richard with regards to this issue.

Mr. Richard's report contained six recommendations, which included the enactment of legislation that would allow superior courts to intervene if an unborn child is thought to be in danger, especially when the parents are known to social services. The recommendations also emphasized the need for

improved services for at-risk mothers; family planning education; and training for service providers on how to identify and treat pregnancy denial. The recommendations further suggest that support and help be available to women who abandon newborns or who have been in pregnancy denial. The recommendations stated, however, that further research is needed about the effectiveness of Safe Haven legislation before such legislation is considered.

## Events and Speaking Engagements

This fiscal year the Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate made presentations at the following events and conferences:

Presentation	Conference	Date and Location
Keynote Speaker	Annual Community Partnership Conference	May 12, 2009 Moncton, NB
Presentation	Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA)	May 12, 2009 Moncton, NB
Guest Speaker regarding our Roles and Mandates	John Howard Society of New Brunswick Annual Meeting	June 11, 2009 Saint John, NB
Presentation	Atelier de Bamako sur l'établissement d'institutions indépendantes de défense des droits de l'enfant (Unicef + OIF)	June 20 – 25, 2009 Bamako, Mali
Presentation	NBCC Early Childhood programme Native graduates	July 9, 2009 Fredericton, NB
Presenting on our roles and mandates	Supervisors of Child Welfare Program at Social Development in Saint John	September 11, 2009 Saint John, NB
Event	First Nations Child Welfare Symposium	September 29 + 30, 2009 Fredericton, NB
Speaker	Provincial Caring Partnerships Committee (event concerning youth affected by domestic violence)	October 6, 2009 Fredericton, NB
Event	Ombudsman Public Service Excellence Awards	October 13, 2009 Fredericton, NB
Presentation	École Sainte-Anne High School (Fairness Week)	October 14, 2009 Fredericton, NB
Presentation	Leo Hayes High School (Fairness Week)	October 14, 2009 Fredericton, NB
Presentation on Youth Mental Health	The 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Addiction and Mental Health Services Conference	October 29, 2009 Edmundston, NB
Presentation	Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative	November 3, 2009 Saint John, NB
Panel on the Ashley Smith Case	National Judicial Institute Conference	November 5, 2009 Ottawa, ON
Panel on UN	(Canadian Coalition for the Rights of the Child)	November 18, 2009

Convention on Rights of the Child		Ottawa, ON
Presentation on Children's Internet Privacy	International Conference on Child Rights hosted by the University of Ottawa	November 19, 2009 Ottawa, ON
Event	State of our Children and Youth Address 2009	November 20, 2009 Fredericton, NB
Presentation on our Roles and Mandates	PEI John Howard Society	November 23, 2009 Charlottetown, PEI
Event	Announcement of Law Reform Task Force on Children's Privacy	December 4, 2009 Fredericton, NB
Presentation	Aboriginal Dialogue Committee Meeting (Federal Government Officials)	December 21, 2009 Moncton, NB
Presentation	Brazil Conference on the Canadian Ombudsman Model	January 18 – 25, 2010 Brazil,
Presentation on our review of First Nations child welfare in NB	Union of New Brunswick Indians (UNBI)	January 27, 2010 Dieppe, NB
Presentation	University of New Brunswick	February 10, 2010 Fredericton, NB
Event	Release of Hand-in-Hand Report NB Legislature	February 24, 2010 Fredericton, NB
Presentation on the Hand-in-Hand Report	University of Moncton	March 8, 2010 Moncton, NB
Presentation on Children with Special Needs	Department of Education	March 10, 2010 Fredericton, NB
Presentation	UNB Law School (Career Day)	March 11, 2010 Fredericton, NB
Presentation	NBASW Lunch and Learn	March 16, 2010 Moncton, NB
Presentation	NBASW Lunch and Learn	March 19, 2010 Fredericton, NB
Presentation	NBASW Lunch and Learn	March 30, 2010 Campbellton, NB
Presentation	NBASW Lunch and Learn	March 31, 2010 Grand-Sault, NB

This fiscal year the Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate attended the following events:



Meeting	Date	Location
CCPO Annual Meeting	May 6 – 8, 2009	Quebec, QC
Federal Justice Canada officials – Youth Mental Court	May 15, 2009	Ottawa, ON
National meeting to discuss Protecting Children's Online Privacy	May 20 – 21, 2009	Fredericton, NB
MMFF Award	May 26, 2009	Fredericton, NB
New Brunswick Association for Community Living Luncheon	June 3, 2009	Fredericton, NB
Bar Admission Banquet	June 17, 2009	Fredericton, NB
Youth Consultation session with Mental Health Commission of Canada	September 11, 2009	Moncton, NB
Congrès AOMF	September 6 – 10, 2009	Quebec, QC
2009 CCPCYA Conference	September 21 – 23, 2009	Saskatoon, SK
NB Business Hall of Fame Dinner	October 20, 2010	Moncton, NB
AGM of the Canadian Coalition on Child Rights	November 18, 2009	Ottawa, ON
New Brunswick's World AIDS Day Breakfast	December 1, 2009	Fredericton, NB
Reception for Dr. Aurel Schofield	December 4, 2009	Moncton, NB
Justice Canada (Meeting on Youth Bail and Pre-Trial Detention)	March 5, 2010	University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
Working Lunch Presentation on Conflict of Interest (Justice Ryan)	March 11, 2010	Fredericton, NB
W.C. Desmond Pacey Memorial Lecture: Chief Noah Augustine	March 17, 2010	Fredericton, NB
NGO Meeting on First Nations	March 25, 2010	Montreal, QC

This fiscal year the Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate conducted the following Community Engagement Sessions and attended the following meetings in First Nations communities:

Meeting	Date	Location
Meeting with the Chief of Eel Ground First Nation	July 23, 2009	Eel Ground, NB
Meeting with the Chief of Fort Folly First Nation and other service providers	August 10, 2009	Fort Folly, NB
Meeting with the Chief of Woodstock First Nation	August 11, 2009	Woodstock, NB
Meeting with the Chief of Kingsclear First Nation	August 12, 2009	Kingsclear, NB
Meeting with First Nations Indian Child and Family Services (FN ICFS)	August 13, 2009	Kingsclear, NB
First Nations Advisory Committee	August 18 – 19, 2009	Metepenagiag Heritage Park, Red Bank, NB
Meeting with the Chief of Red Bank First Nation	August 19, 2009	Red Bank, NB
Community Engagement Session on First Nations Child Welfare	September 1, 2009	Esgenoôpetitj, NB
Community Engagement Session on First Nations Child Welfare	September 3, 2009	Tobique, NB
Community Engagement Session on First Nations Child Welfare	September 14, 2009	Bouctouche, NB
Community Engagement Session on First Nations Child Welfare	September 24, 2009	Elsipogtog, NB
Community Engagement Session on First Nations Child Welfare	September 28, 2009	St. Mary's First Nation, Fredericton, NB
Community Engagement Session on First Nations Child Welfare	October 5, 2009	Oromocto, NB
Community Engagement Session on First Nations Child Welfare	October 8, 2009	Eel Ground, NB
Community meeting at Eel River Bar	October 19, 2009	Eel River Bar, NB
Meeting with Band officials	October 19, 2009	Pabineau, NB
Meeting with Band Manager at Indian Island	October 21, 2009	Indian Island, NB
Elsipogtog Follow-up Meeting	October 21, 2009	Elsipogtog, NB
Community Engagement Session on First Nations Child Welfare	October 28, 2009	Metepenagiag, NB

Meeting with the Chief of Madawaska First Nation	October 29, 2009	Madawaska, NB
First Nations Technical Committee Meeting	December 7, 2009	Fredericton, NB
Integrated Service Delivery of First Nations Community Services	January 13, 2010	Fredericton, NB
Meeting with the Chief of Elsipogtog First Nation	March 22, 2010	Elsipogtog, NB
Meeting with the Chief of St. Mary's First Nation	March 23, 2010	St. Mary's, NB