





July 17, 2020

To: Senator Brian Francis
Senate of Canada
2 Rideau Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 8X5

Re: Youth Member's inaugural Report

Dear Senator Francis,

We are pleased to be presenting you with the work we have given our time to in order to both promote and protect the Human Rights of our fellow Children and Youth in Prince Edward Island.

Special in this report specifically for you Senator Francis, is a researched reflection from one of our Founding Members, Sarah (Lucy) Knockwood on Indigenous Identity and Education. She speaks to critical elements upheld in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Further enclosed in this Report, you will find the Job Description we both requested and then authored to ensure that in the years ahead, the Table is built to be a strong Youth Voice and inclusive. We have included the Adult Job Description which we also requested and authored, ensuring that the Adult Participants of the Table are able to impact change and recognize this is a Youth-lead on-going conversation.

Next you will find our individual biographies. We each took our own approach to demonstrating who we are. Before you read them, we feel it is important to share though *who we are not*. There are many stereotypes and pre-conceived notions about Youth. To keep an open mind about who we are that is doing this work for the province, we feel it is important to share:

That we are *not*:

- Our age
- "Just" Youth
- Our experiences
- One action
- Less than
- Dangerous
- Defined by our past
- Who we were in the past
- Judged by what we do on any one single day
- Limited by our ages in our ability to understand

- Gullible
- Influenced by our parents, their choices, their actions
- A label, a diagnosis, contagious, or 'faking it'
- Seeking attention
- Controlled by social media

We are:

- Whole Persons
- Unique and different
- Our own selves
- Capable of being mature
- Recognizing that our past still is a part of us
- Capable of recognizing red tape and barriers
- Going to be different in the future. We are the future.
- Capable and ready
- Have a bigger understanding of the whole world
- Acknowledging that the good and bad shapes us
- People who understand things like the economy and politics
- Acknowledging our struggles
- Entirely capable of happiness
- Our own story

Thank you for having this framework in order to get to know us.

You will find the Terms of Engagement we have all agreed to in serving, the Terms of Reference for the entire Table, and Meeting Minutes in this Report thanks to the staff of the Child & Youth Advocate Office. We hope this demonstrates the seriousness of the topics we are all willing to engage in to best help our community.

Lastly, we have included the one of the United Nation documents we researched to share with the Table: The Convention of the Rights of The Child in a graphic visual format. We hope this helps to further shape the topics we are willing and capable of addressing.

Thank you for receiving our inaugural Report to you Senator Francis. We look forward to many more to come.

Sincerely,

The Founding Youth Members

The Founding Youth Participants

Jade Ward
George Martin
June Horne
Lucy Knockwood

Shauna Bjornson
Shaylee Bjornson
Maggie Bain
Payge Kowaleski