

## Media Release

### Niagara to Celebrate National Child Day

NIAGARA REGION – November--, 2005 - On November 20, Niagarans will celebrate National Child Day, it is a commemoration of two historic events for children:

- the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959)
- the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

The \_\_\_\_\_ will coordinate a variety of activities to celebrate these historic events, including:

(Sample Activities)

- a ribbon campaign for teachers, child care providers, parents and children;
- a poster campaign in local schools
- National Child Day festivities at place, time and date.

Activities will include

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(Sample: a parent-child drop-in event featuring learning games and fun for preschoolers hosted by the Ontario Early Years Centre-Niagara Falls, as well as presentations by local dignitaries, and an opportunity for children to add to a giant National Child Day banner.

National Child Day holds special significance for Niagara Region, as it is one of the first municipalities in Canada to institute a Charter of Rights for Children and Teens. **The Children's Charter has been endorsed by all of Niagara's towns and cities and is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Niagara's Charter is one of the first of its kind in Canada in that students and teens wrote their own version of the Charter.** The original Charter was adapted by teens and grade four students to reflect their understanding of what the Charter meant to them. The Niagara Charter is designed to ensure that all policies, programs and decisions emanating from the Regional Municipality of Niagara are in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. "Our hope is that this Charter will be a catalyst for improving children's lives and be used as reference to guide decisions made on their behalf," says Pat Heidebrecht, Director of Children's Services for the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

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Contact Name