



Joint Media Release

County of Simcoe, Office of the Warden and CAO
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charter Recognizes Rights of Children and Youth in Simcoe County

Midhurst/ November 20, 2009 - The Child, Youth and Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County today launched the County's first Child and Youth Charter, documenting basic rights for young people and responsibilities for those who care for them.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for all of us to formalize what we already know," said Peter Hominuk, Coalition Chair. "All children and youth have fundamental rights and freedoms. They deserve respect and support to realize their full potential. Now these basic rights are written into our new Charter and we must work together for the benefit of our children and future generations."

Children and youth joined Coalition members and government representatives at the Simcoe County Administration Centre on Friday, November 20th to proclaim the Charter in English, French and Ojibway.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child affirms that all levels of government have a duty to help families fulfill their responsibilities and protect the rights of children.

Locally, the Child, Youth and Family Services Coalition is a county-wide alliance including non profit and public organizations that serve children, youth and their families in Simcoe County. Formed in 1999, members work together to increase the effectiveness of the service delivery system across the region. Sectors represented include municipal government, health, education and social services.

"The Charter gives us a starting point and now we must work together with our community partners toward our common goals," said County of Simcoe Warden Tony Guergis. "Children and youth are the future of our community and we all have a significant role to play in their growth and development. We have a joint responsibility to provide safe, vibrant communities and access to a fair share of our community's resources."

The Simcoe County Coalition of Child, Youth and Family Services invites government and all sectors of our community to join in ensuring all children and youth enjoy life-long good health and well being through the provision of Charter rights including nutritious food, safe water and safe, affordable housing.

For more information visit simcoecountycoalition.ca.

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Digineraries, children, youth and families from Simcoe County joined today to celebrate the official launch of the Simcoe County Child, Youth Charter held at the County of Simcoe Administration Centre in Midhurst.