

Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office

Annette King and Ian Cooper



ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL
COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

October 5, 2024



***Dághq Shäw níthän Kwänlin Dün yè Ta'an Kwäch'än kwäkeyi kay
ajasídlā du (Southern Tutchone)***

*I think very well of the Kwänlin Dün and Ta'an Kwäch'än for working in
their Territory.*

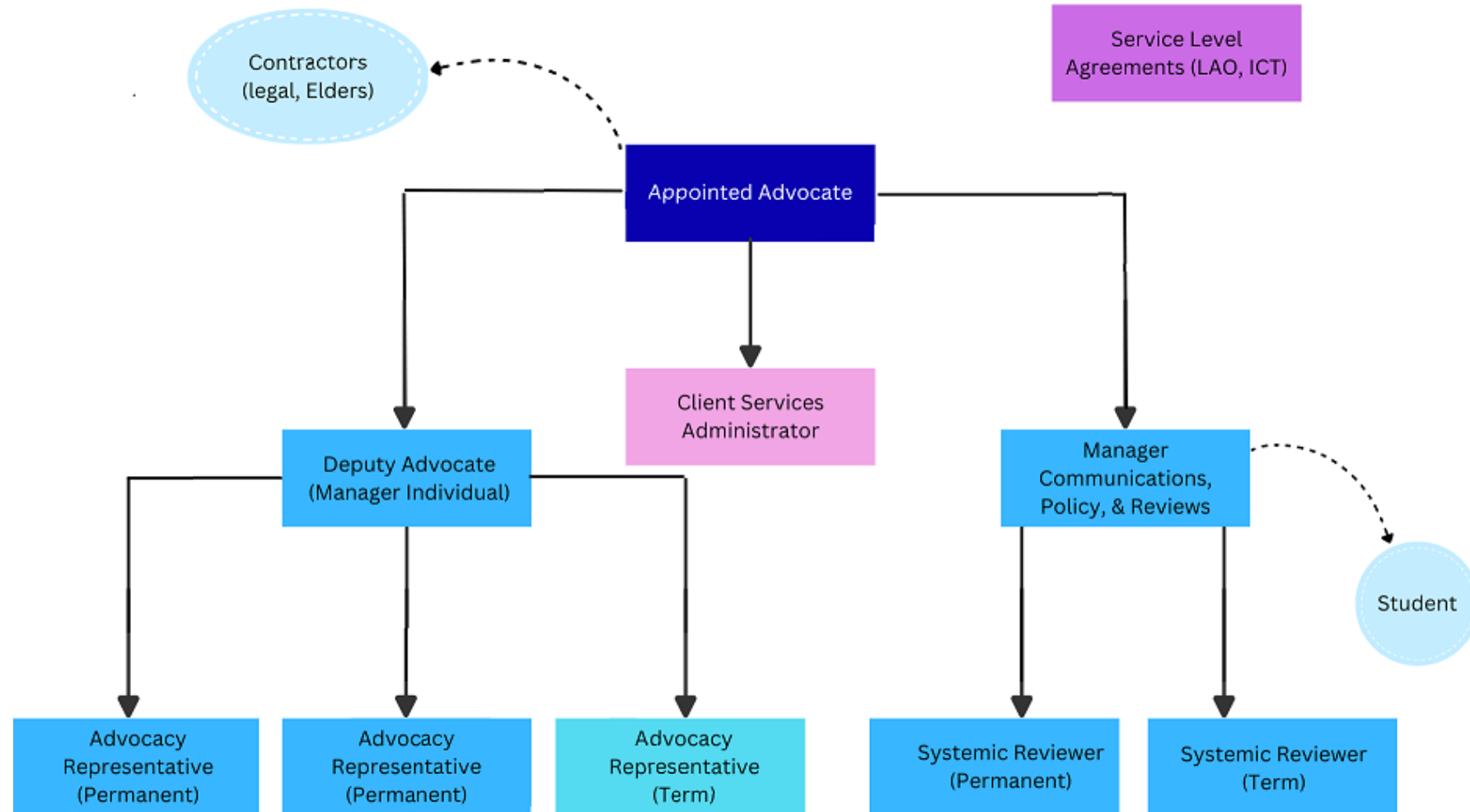


Who we are

Annette, Julia, McKenzie, Rachel, Ben, Ian, Anya, Christopher, Lucy



Who we are



What We Do

- YCAO is an independent office of the Yukon Legislative Assembly
- All activities are directed by the Yukon *Child and Youth Advocate Act* (2009) and guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child UNCRC
- Primary role is to represent the rights, views and preferences of children and youth who are eligible for Yukon government services and programs
- The mandate is broad including all YG services and programs for children and youth
- YCAO reports annually to the Legislative Assembly



What we do

Individual Advocacy: help children and youth effectively access government services and uphold their right to be heard

Systemic Advocacy: identify and review systemic trends that arise over the course of individual advocacy

Public Education: further awareness of the role of YCAO and children's rights through workshops, trainings, and community events



MISSION

We commit to upholding the rights and amplifying the voices of children and youth throughout the Yukon.

VISION

The vision of YCAO is for a safe and healthy society that hears, includes, values, and protects the rights and voices of children and youth.

VALUES

EMPOWERMENT

INTEGRITY

EXCELLENCE

PROFESSIONALISM

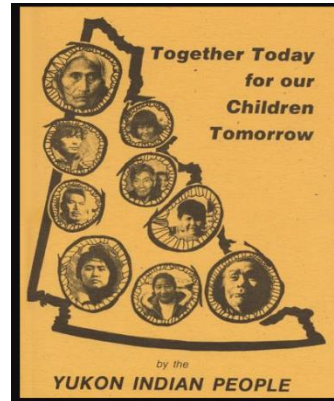
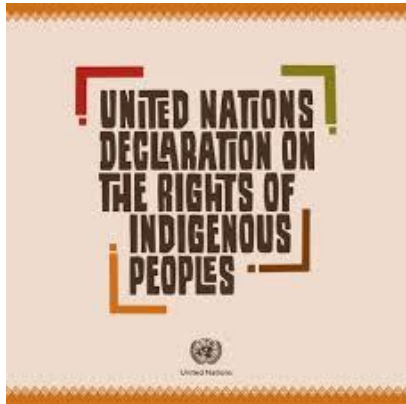
ACCOUNTABILITY

SELF-DETERMINATION

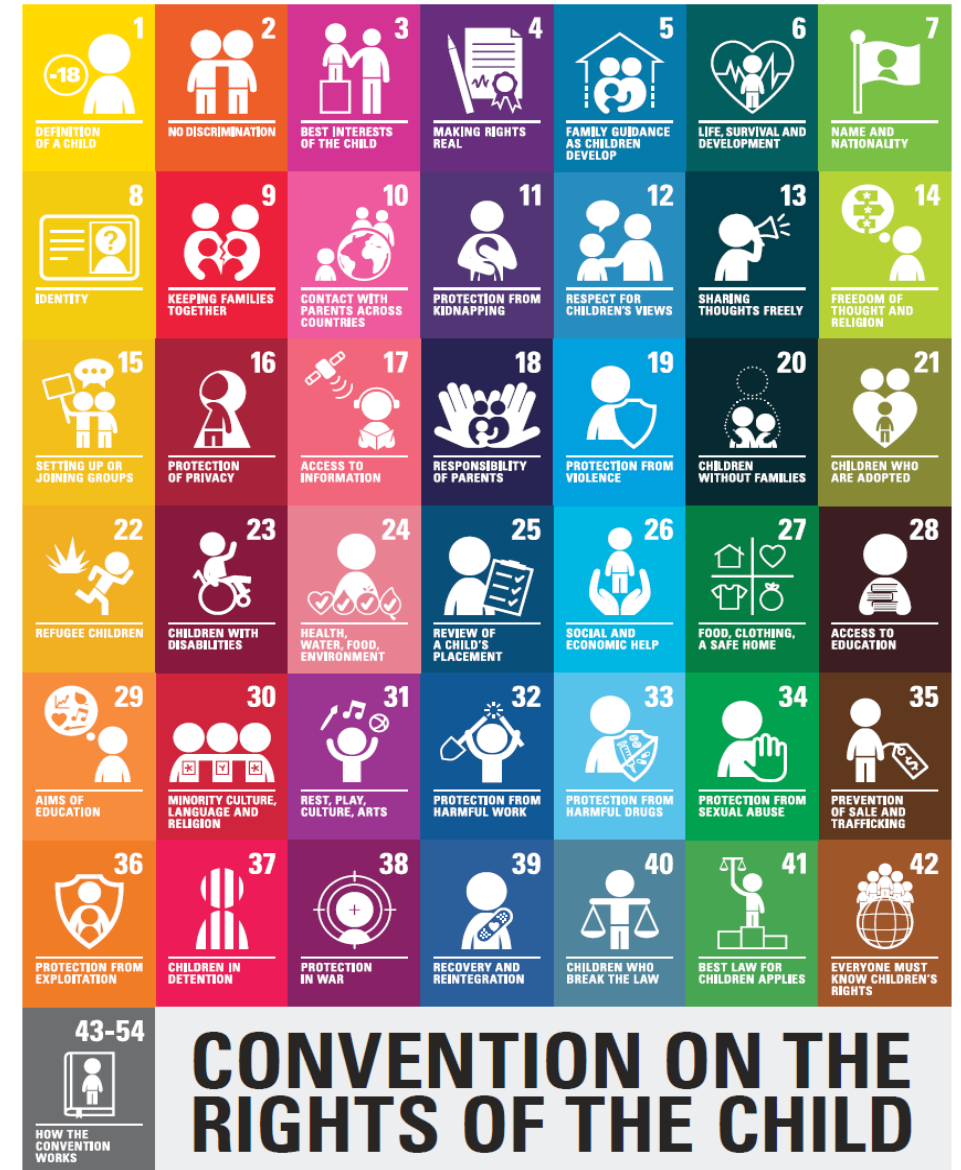
RESPECT



What guides us



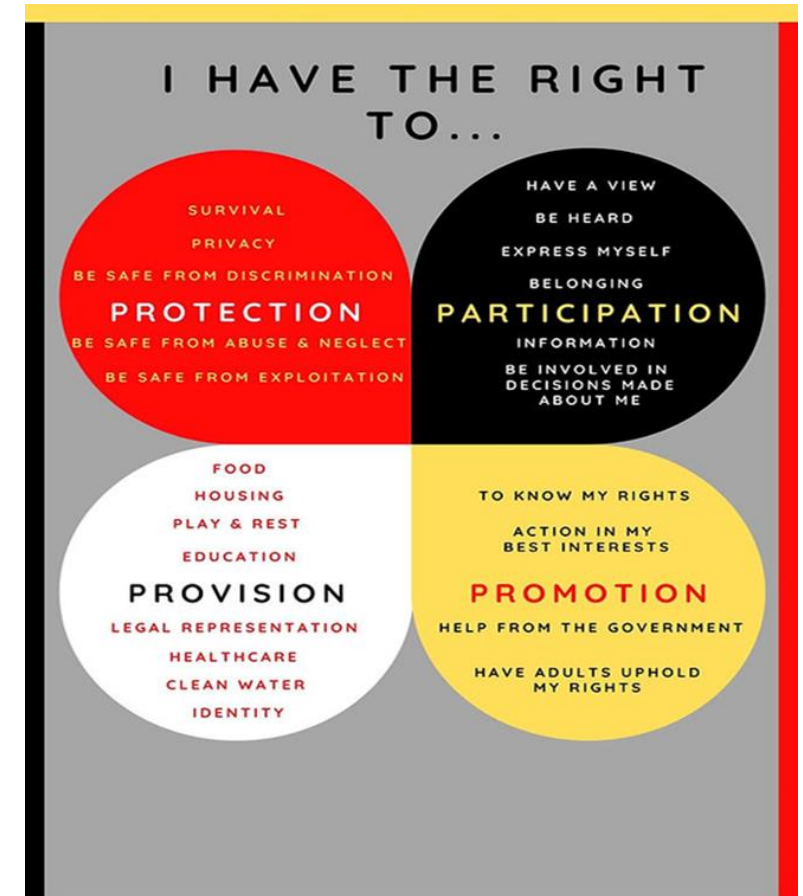
Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada



Understanding Children's Rights

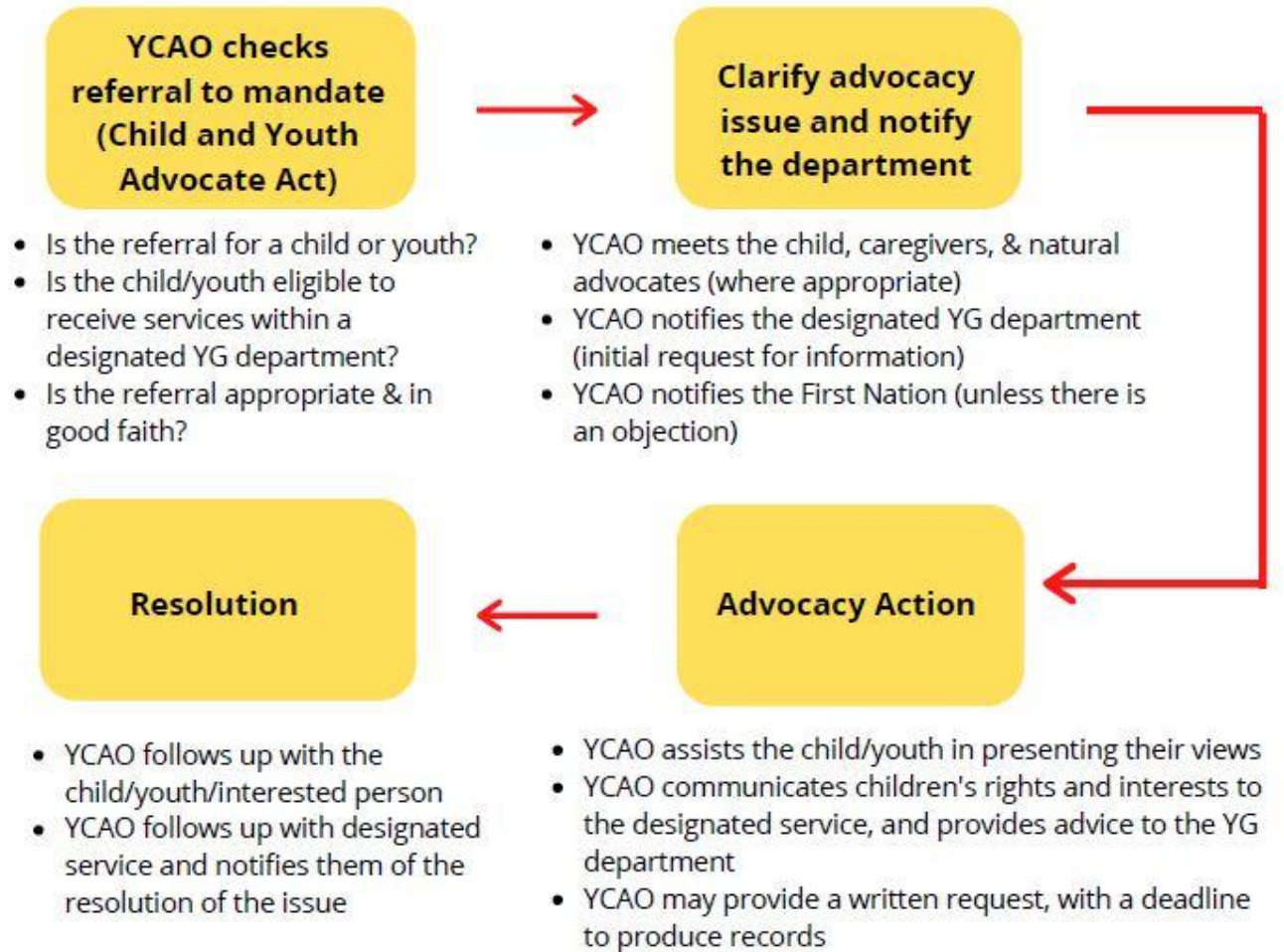
Guiding Principles

- Non-discrimination (Article 2)
- Best Interests of the Child (Article 3)
- Optimal Life Survival and Development (Article 6)
- Respect for the Child's Views (Article 12)



YCAO's process

For individual advocacy:



YCAO – Education Issues

Advocacy Issues with Education:

- School Attendance
- Academic Supports
- Behavioral Supports
- Safety in School

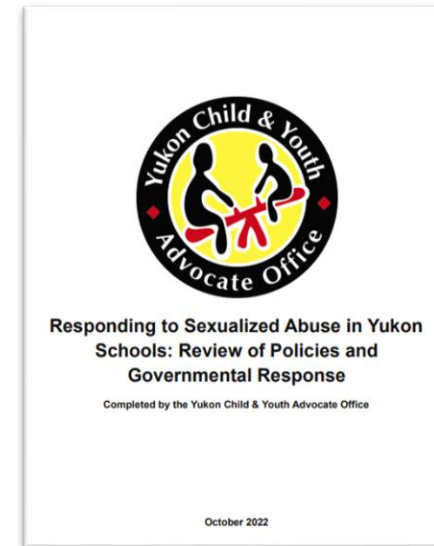
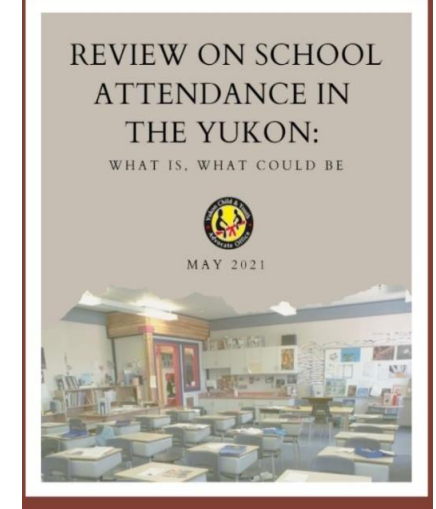
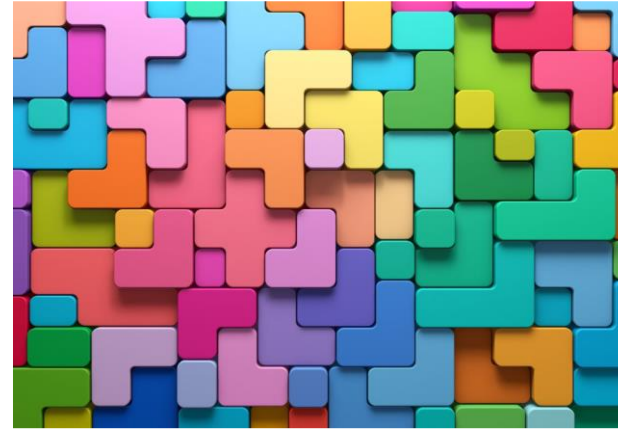


Systemic advocacy

If over the course of individual advocacy, the Advocate becomes aware of trends that point to a policy or systemic issue with respect to designated services, the Advocate may review and provide advice to the Department

Systemic Reviews 12(1), 15, 16

Systemic Analysis 12(2)



Requests for Systemic Advocacy

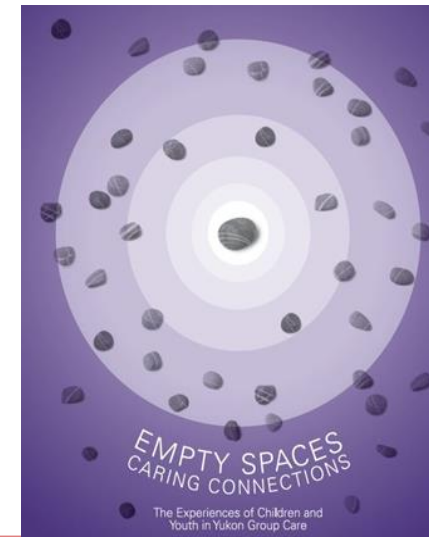
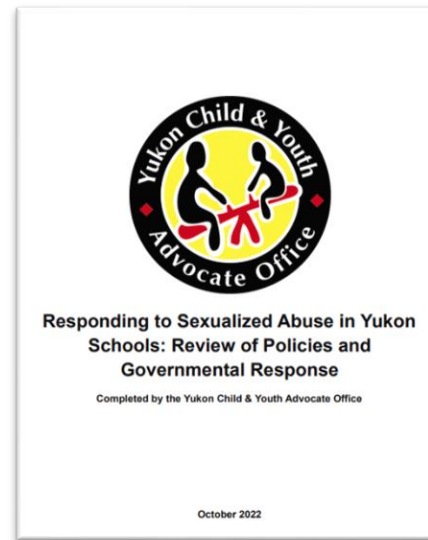
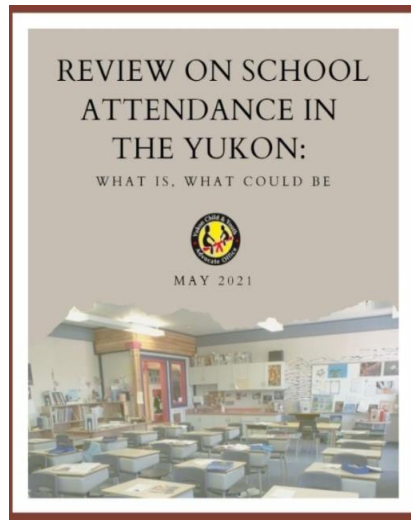
Systemic Discrimination and Racism in Education



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identify Policy

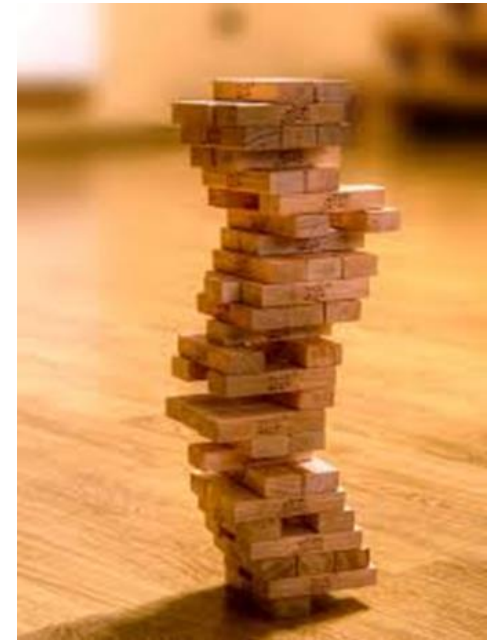


Systemic Advocacy Progress Tracker



New and Emerging Systemic Reviews:

- Coordinating Supports for Children with Complex Needs
- High Conflict Custody Situations – Impacts on Children
- Community Safety
- Youth on Their Own – Homelessness



Public Education and Youth Engagement

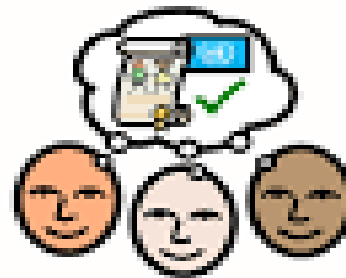
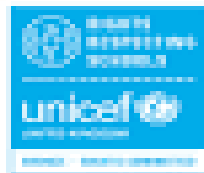


Yukon CRIA Working Group (Community of Practice)



Article 42

Everyone should know
about the UNCRC.





Article 12 – Right to be heard

- States parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child
- The views of the child shall be given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child or must defer to all of the other rights
- The child shall be provided the opportunity to be heard in any proceeding affecting the child, either directly or through a representative consistent with the procedural rules of the national law



Review of *Child and Youth Advocate Act*



CYAA Act Review Themes



- Definitions, Guiding Principles
- Communicating with Children and Youth about the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*
- Reviews and Investigations of Critical Injuries and Deaths
- Information Sharing and Collaboration with non YG organizations and governments
- Legal Representation for Children and Youth
- Accountability and Enforcement - duty for YG to respond to YCAO, public reporting and Child Rights Impact Assessments



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