Simcoe County
Children and Youth Charter

Preamble: - The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child affirms that all levels of government have a duty to help families fulfil their responsibilities and protect the rights of children. Furthermore, The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms the distinctive rights and needs of indigenous peoples with particular attention to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth and children.

All children and youth have fundamental rights and freedoms. They deserve respect and support to realize their rights and full potential. Because children and youth are the future of our community, it is in our interest to ensure that they all have the opportunity to grow into healthy, independent and contributing members of our society. Everyone in the community has a role to play in their growth and development. We have a joint responsibility to ensure that children and youth are protected and safe from exploitation and neglect. Children and youth must have 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:

- ✓ Nutritious food and safe water
- ✓ A safe, affordable and comfortable place to live
- ✓ Protection from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation
- ✓ A diverse and inclusive community
- ✓ Respect and attention for the voices of children and youth
- ✓ Love and support from caring adults in their community
- ✓ The opportunity to learn and exercise the beliefs of their family's culture, including language, traditions and religion/spirituality
- ✓ Access to quality, inclusive child care and/or early education programs
- ✓ Safe places to play in their community
- ✓ Access to affordable, inclusive recreational activities
- ✓ Quality, inclusive, universal education system
- ✓ Governments that recognize the importance of children's needs
- ✓ Access to quality health care, mental health treatment, social programs and services that are timely, safe and effective
- ✓ Services that are delivered in the context of their family, culture, community and school

These rights apply to all children and youth without discrimination due to race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, record of offences, marital status, family status or ability.