

National Child Day

November 20, 2024

The City of Winnipeg's Recreation Services Division has worked in collaboration with *Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education* to recognize National Child Day, marked every year on November 20.



Celebrated since 1993, National Child Day commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (November 20, 1959) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (November 20, 1989). The Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international treaty that recognizes the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of children, and provides us with a roadmap of what is needed to raise healthy and happy children.

In the fall of 2024, various Children's Free Play programs (ages 6–12) were invited to participate in a variety of activities including "*Fortune Teller*" at their sites. This new activity is prepared by *Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education* and is an easy, interactive activity which allows children to explore human rights values and make meaningful connections between their lived experience and the broader framework of their rights! Once they become familiar with human rights values, children create a fortune teller. As they play, they are able to reflect on personal stories about how they have upheld these human rights values in their own lives.

Every year, sites participate in the "*Tree of Children's Rights*" activity – this continues to be a favourite among both our leaders and participating children!

Once again, children were invited to partake in a variety of the UNICEF National Child Day Toolkit activities, including **Colour Your Rights**, **Make Your Mark: Window Sign**, and **Puppet Show for Your Rights**.

Unicef National Child Day Toolkit Activities

Colour Your Rights

Participants were invited to participate in a colouring activity featuring the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They were able to get creative and learn about each right while colouring the images.

Make Your Mark: Window Signs

Participants were invited to paint, colour, or draw their handprint in blue on the provided signage to raise awareness and showcase to the community their support of National Child Day and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Puppet Show for Your Rights

Participants created puppets and put on a show to talk about children's rights! They picked a right, created a puppet, and used their puppets to explain to their peers why that right was important to them!



Make Your Mark: Window Sign (Sergeant Tommy Prince Place)

6 Free Play Programs and 77 Children

A total of 6 Free Play Programs and 77 children took part in the National Child Day celebration in 2024. Program locations were able to create fortune tellers to play with, post their Tree of Children's Rights for the community to see, or complete various UNICEF activities.

The overall feedback from Recreation Technicians and participants was positive. Children reported learning about their rights, and challenging themselves to share experiences with other participants. They had fun creating the fortune teller and artwork for their trees, painting their handprints, and participating in the other UNICEF activities!

Sites	Participants
Sergeant Tommy Prince Place	15
Fort Rouge Leisure Centre	1
Mayfair Recreation Centre	15
Turtle Island Neighborhood Centre	18
Norquay Community Centre	16
Ralph Brown Community Centre	12

Participating in this celebration allowed participants and our employees to join in the conversation and activities that highlight positive values, children's rights, and inclusion.

This was also an opportunity to be a part of a national event in support of children's rights!



Make Your Mark: Window Sign
(Sergeant Tommy Prince Place)



Tree of Rights
(Fort Rouge Leisure Centre)



Fortune Teller
(Norquay Community Centre)

Testimonials

"Participants really enjoyed making the tree and leaves."

– Mayfair Recreation Centre

"Window hand signs were also a big hit. Very messy. Kids were asking to do them every month with different themes depending on the month. A lot of public also complimented how they looked in the big windows at Mayfair."

– Mayfair Recreation Centre

"The kids enjoyed making leaves again, they remembered making them over the past few years. There was a lot of creativity put into the leaves and the activity started good discussions around children's rights and how they can use their rights to lead a Community Action Project."

– Turtle Island Neighborhood Centre

"The window signs were the biggest hit. The kids liked to paint their hands the most. Being able to display them they thought was cool too, but the hand painting won them over."

– Norquay Community Centre

"The kids really liked painting their hands and showcasing it in the Centre. They discussed human rights and the rest of the activities."

– Turtle Island Neighborhood Centre

"The kids enjoyed making and playing with the fortune teller."

– Ralph Brown Community Centre