



Thunder Bay Children's Charter

All children deserve basic rights and freedoms. A fair share of society's resources must be devoted to ensuring this. Families are responsible for raising their children. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child clearly states that working in partnership with communities, all levels of governments have a duty to assist families to fulfill their responsibilities.*

All Thunder Bay children deserve:

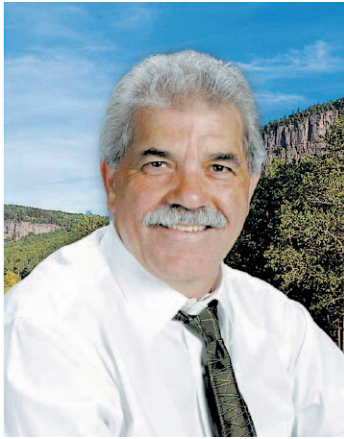
- ✓ a quality of life that meets their physical, intellectual, emotional and social needs.
- ✓ to have enough nutritious food every day.
- ✓ to have a safe and comfortable place to live.
- ✓ quality child care and/or early education programs.
- ✓ to have safe places to play, and access to affordable recreational activities.
- ✓ quality primary, secondary, and affordable post secondary education.
- ✓ the resources to ensure life-long good health.
- ✓ to be served by governments that put the health and well-being of children first by ensuring enough funding for children's programs.
- ✓ to be protected from neglect and abuse.
- ✓ to be safe from exploitation.**

* For the purposes of this Charter children are defined as being from birth to eighteen years of age.

** For the purposes of this Charter being exploited means to be used unfairly by someone else to meet their own needs.



Adopted by
City Council for the City of Thunder Bay
June 14, 2004



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A Message from Thunder Bay Children's Advocate

The City of Thunder Bay's new strategic plan calls for the need to improve our quality of life.

A vital part of accomplishing this Mission is the development of a Children's Charter and Child Advocate for the City of Thunder Bay in consultation with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and other interested groups.

On Feb. 16, 2004, City Council appointed me as the Children's Advocate for the City of Thunder Bay. The Children's Advocate is an elected official who, in co-operation with the Thunder Bay Children's Charter Coalition, will advocate on behalf of children's needs with all levels of government, and the private sector as appropriate. I am honoured to serve in this important new role.

Councillor Joe Virdiramo

The Children's Advocate will:

- ✓ provide advice, and advocate on behalf of children's needs, at the political level
- ✓ be an active member of the Thunder Bay Children's Charter Coalition
- ✓ be kept informed about local issues relating to children's health, social needs, and available children's programs, services, and activities
- ✓ provide advice to the Coalition on the best ways of bringing concerns forward at the political level
- ✓ keep the Coalition informed about the Corporation's plans that will affect children
- ✓ report regularly to City Council on the activities of the Coalition
- ✓ endorse the publication of an annual report on the Coalition's activities which includes the Thunder Bay Children's Charter
- ✓ act as ambassador to promote the values embodied in the Thunder Bay Children's Charter at every opportunity

The Thunder Bay Children's Charter embraces these values as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child.