



# NATIONAL CHILD DAY 2013

NOVEMBER 20, 2013



## “Bring your MP to School Day” 2013

Close to 40 Members of Parliament visited schools from coast to coast this year, as part of UNICEF Canada’s “Bring your MP to School Day” initiative. No child was too far to be heard. Their voices, concerns and interests received meaningful attention from their local MPs.

### Student Questions and Comments

During the school visits students raised a wide range of issues affecting children in Canada and abroad. Topics of conversation included:



- MP duties
- rights of children and youth
- Quebec Values Charter
- immigration
- municipal leadership
- Arctic issues and Northern sovereignty
- homelessness
- pandemic planning in Canada
- minimum sentences for criminal offences
- the Middle East
- Typhoon Haiyan
- environmental protections

“I thought it was very interesting to learn about what my MP does.” – Ethan

“Great learning experience. She was very interactive and had lots of interesting things to say.” – AG

“I really enjoyed talking with her. I think it was great how she came to our small school to answer questions and to help us get more involved in our government. She was awesome and I’m glad she took time to talk with us!” -SL



## MP Insights

Participating MPs recognize their duty to hear the views of their youngest constituents – who are unable to vote but comprise a quarter of Canada’s population. All participating MPs were delighted to have participated in this initiative.

Here is what some MPs had to say:

“It was a pleasure for me to be a part of UNICEF’s ‘Bring your MP to School Day’ this week! I spoke to students about my role as a Member of Parliament and about the changes that kids can make in their communities and across the country. I am extremely proud of the energy, the enthusiasm and the creativity of these kids. It was a fun and educational experience!”

Megan Leslie, MP for Halifax

“I am very happy to be participating in UNICEF’s ‘Bring Your MP to School Day.’ I have engaged with these students, have listened and learned from what they have to say.”

Larry Miller, MP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound



“We forget they have really important things to offer and we should listen to them. Despite the fact that students are too young to vote, they still deserve to be heard because children do remarkable things!”

Malcolm Allen, MP for Welland





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“I was thrilled to participate and I think this initiative is important because it can help young people learn about how government impacts their day to day life, and how they can participate in the political process. I was impressed with the excellent questions the students asked me. They showed that they have been following the news and have developed their own views about current events.”

Geoff Regan, MP for Halifax West