



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian Children Being Consulted as Experts on Health

Monday, September 25th, 2006, Ottawa, Canada. Canadians commonly associate health as being determined by biological and genetic factors, but the United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) through its trailblazing *Healthy Children, Healthy Communities* (HC²) project is expanding this view and moving beyond biology to examine the social conditions which lead to healthy societies. HC² is asking Canadians to expand their thinking about health; here's the twist: our audience- kids, aged 9-12.

HC² will be conducting a series of roundtables with children in rural and urban communities across Canada. The first roundtable and project launch will take place in Ottawa at the Charles H. Hulse Public School on September 26th. The day will begin with a school assembly. Keynote speakers include the Honorable Landon Pearson, former Senator for Children and Youth as well as J.F. Carrey, the youngest Canadian to climb Mt. Everest.

UNA-Canada is asking kids what *their* views on health are because they are the experts on the issues which affect them. Research like this has never been done before. Through community roundtables and a Child Health Perceptions Survey, children and child health stakeholders exchange knowledge about social factors that impact health. In their communities, participants create plans to ensure that their priorities are included in health initiatives in their schools and communities, provincially, nationally, and internationally. Findings from the HC² study will build upon some of the major research being conducted on the Social Determinants of Health in a national and international context.

UNA-Canada is a national charitable organization celebrating its landmark 60th anniversary. As a 'think and do' organization, UNA-Canada supports a network of seventeen volunteer branches and contact points with a National office in Ottawa and Western professional office in Vancouver. Our mandate is to engage Canadians in the work of the UN and the critical global issues which affect us all, through innovative projects, policy research, and on-going communications with Canadians.

HC² Project Launch

When: Tuesday, September 26th; 9 a.m.

Where: Charles H. Hulse Public School, 2605 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa, ON

For more information on the HC² project, please contact Maria Sterniczuk at 613-791-9404 or at maria.sterniczuk@unac.org.