



NEWS RELEASE

Abbotsford to Sign Child Friendly Statement

Abbotsford, November 20, 2009 – Abbotsford will renew its commitment to its children, youth and families by signing a Child Friendly Statement of Intention on December 4, 2009.

In recognition of Universal Children's Day which occurs on November 20 each year we are proud to be officially declaring Abbotsford a Child Friendly City," said Mayor George W. Peary. "Children and youth need safe places to grow and learn, and we are committed to continuing to provide these types of important facilities and programs for our youth."

On December 4, 2009 the Abbotsford Child Friendly Statement of Intention will be signed at City Hall by Mayor George W. Peary along with many community stakeholders. As a Child Friendly City, all signing stakeholders set the intention to honor, celebrate, engage, inspire, and support young people

A Child Friendly City is a local system of good governance committed to fulfilling children's rights. In November 2008 the Union of British Columbia Municipalities approved the City of Abbotsford's Child and Youth Matters initiative. Funding received was used to create a Child and Youth Friendly plan for the City that includes intergenerational activities for seniors and youth. As part of the Child and Youth Friendly Plan for Abbotsford, the Child Friendly Statement of Intention was created. Several stakeholder groups, service providers, and children and youth from the community had the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions with respect to the content of the Statement.

On November 9, 2009 the Abbotsford Child Friendly Statement of Intention was presented to City Council, and was approved in principle. The Statement of Intention modeled after similar statements adopted in European cities including Rotterdam and Canadian cities such as Ottawa.

By signing the document on December 4th, the City of Abbotsford will make a commitment to continuing to create an environment in which children and youth can act on their ideas of creating a better Abbotsford. Any organization that wishes to participate in the signing can contact Cherie Enns at 851-4184.

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