



Press Release

October 11, 2016

Contact: Annie Billington, Communications Manager
Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education
abillington@equitas.org
+1(514) 954-0382, ext. 247

On November 20th, #PlayItFair with Equitas for National Child Day!

National Child Day, celebrated annually on November 20th, is a day dedicated to promoting and safeguarding the rights of children and youth.



Montreal, October 11, 2016 - Celebrated since 1993, National Child Day commemorates the adoption of:

- The [Declaration of the Rights of the Child](#) on November 20, 1959
- The [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC) on November 20, 1989.

These documents spell out the basic human rights to which all children under the age of 18 are entitled, including the right to health, the right to play and the right to participate and have a voice in matters that affect them.

By ratifying the Convention in 1991, **Canada made a commitment to ensure that children are treated with dignity and respect, and are protected from harm both in Canada and abroad.**

Children's rights aim to ensure that each child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Respect for the rights of the child can only be fully achieved when everyone, including children themselves, recognize that every person has the same rights, and then adopts attitudes and behaviours of respect, inclusion and acceptance.

Equitas and its partners encourage Canadian children to #PlayItFair and speak their rights.

CELEBRATE WITH US!

OUR 2016 NATIONAL CHILD DAY #PlayItFair ACTIVITIES

(Please note that the content will be updated leading to November 20th)

Play It Fair! is an innovative program implemented in day camps, schools and after school programs across Canada that increases children aged 6-12 understanding of human rights, respect for diversity and peaceful conflict resolution.

The games and activities provide a starting point for children to discuss issues such as bullying, and work together to find ways to promote inclusion, respect for diversity, fairness, acceptance and cooperation.

Play it Fair! is celebrating its 10th Anniversary this year! Created and developed in Montreal, the *Play it Fair!* games and toolkit are now used by children aged 6-12 in 42 communities across Canada and in nearly 15 countries around the world. **Learn more about Equitas' impact on children and youth participation: <http://bit.ly/2aAC41S>**

A. BOOKLET – 5 easy and fun ways to celebrate in your school and your community!

National Child Day

Play it Fair!

equitas
Centre International d'Éducation aux Droits Humains
International Centre for Human Rights Education

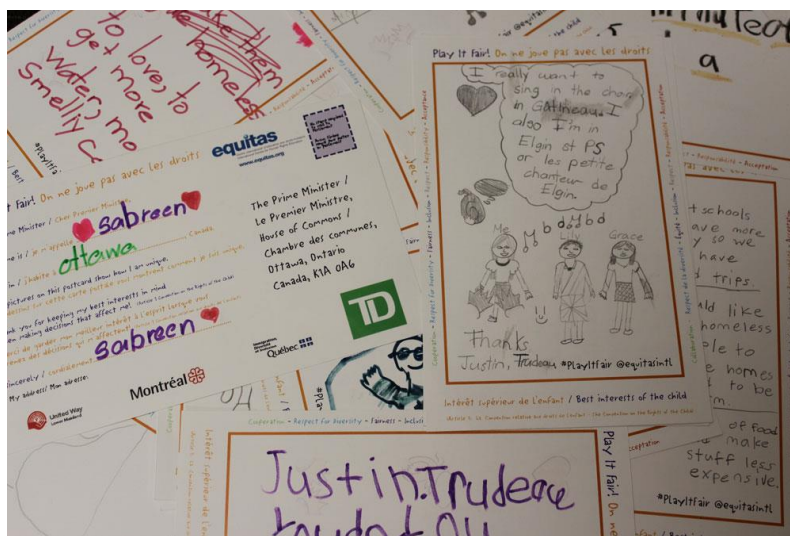
Suggested Date:	Around November 20 or on a special day in your organization
Age:	6-12 years old
Time:	Variable
Group Size:	Variable (you can combine several groups or classes)
Location:	At your organization, community centre, school or park
Values:	Cooperation, respect, fairness, inclusion, respect for diversity, responsibility, acceptance

Check out our [National Child Day Booklet featuring 5 easy and fun ways to celebrate National Child Day!](#)

Looking for organizations in your area?

Equitas is working with more than 300 partners in 42 communities across Canada. Write to Adrianna to know about the organization in your area! [agreenblat\(a\)equitas.org](mailto:agreenblat@equitas.org)

B. Dear Justin Trudeau – Join our Postcard to Parliament Campaign!



Celebrate National Child Day (November 20th) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child by **sending a postcard to parliament!**

More than 10,000 postcards are being sent each year by children all across Canada. By sending a postcard to parliament, children get to share their ideas with the Prime minister of Canada and other national decision-makers. [Read more : Postcard to Parliament Tipsheet \(pdf\)](#).

Want to participate? Order your postcards today! Postcards are available free of charge (quantities are limited). Please contact [pif \(a\) equitas.org](mailto:pif(a)equitas.org)

You can also [download postcards here](#).

Three activities you can do with children :

Draw it Right ([ACTIVITY SHEET](#))

I Have the Right ([ACTIVITY SHEET](#))

Human Rights Twister ([ACTIVITY SHEET](#))

C. 300 children are taking over the Senate in Ottawa

On November 25th, 2016, Equitas will be hosting a special activity in the Senate to celebrate National Child Day.

300 children (10-12 years old) from Ottawa schools will be taking over the Senate for an hour and a half of celebration and will learn about their rights through Equitas *Play It Fair!* activities. This special activity will give children the opportunity to explore why diversity is important to them and ways they can share their ideas and opinions so they can be heard.

D. 2016 Play It Fair! Award

Every year, this award recognizes local innovation, creativity and exceptional contributions made in the field of children's rights using *Play it Fair!*, an Equitas program that increases children's understanding of human rights, respect of diversity and peaceful conflict resolution. The winner of the 2016 award will be announced on November 20th.



Thank you to our visionary sponsors for supporting Canadian children learn respect for diversity and human rights through *Play it Fair!*



Ends

Press Contact:

Annie Billington, Communications Manager
Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education
(514) 954-0382, ext. 247
abillington@equitas.org
Cell: 514-625-3581
@EquitasIntl

About Equitas - Based in Montreal, Equitas is Canada's oldest and most active human rights education organization, working for the advancement of equality, social justice and respect for human rights. With real impact in Quebec, across Canada and in some of the world's most challenging places, Equitas has reached over 2 million people worldwide.



www.equitas.org



[/equitas](https://www.facebook.com/equitas)



[@EquitasIntl](https://twitter.com/EquitasIntl)