

Reader Photo of the Week



Oak Bay's Bill Smith captured this image of a busy Beach Drive waterfront as visitors gather to enjoy one of the community's painted pianos. Email your high-resolution .jpg photos to editor@oakbaynews.com. Please include your name, contact information, where you took the photo and what you like about the image.

UVic project to aid children’s rights around the globe

Children around the world stand to benefit from a new monitoring and reporting platform being developed by the University of Victoria to improve countries’ ability to comply with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Globally, 196 countries are signatories to the 1989 convention to assure the best possible and most equitable use of government resources to uphold the economic, social, health and cultural rights of the child. They are required to regularly report on their progress with the CRC, but compliance is an issue.

GlobalChild will provide an accessible and systematic reporting structure designed to help identify strengths and weaknesses in government policies and processes that impact children.

“Despite Canada’s important role in the development and promotion of the CRC, it is consistently falling short in compliance and reporting,” says Ziba Vaghri, lead investigator and an expert on child development in UVic’s School of Public Health and Social Policy. “This project will help align Canada’s internal processes with our international obligations by creating an accountability tool.”

GlobalChild will be developed in close collaboration with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which receives, reviews and advises on the CRC reports from the signatories. The project’s team includes seven Canadian and four international universities as well as other prominent Canadian and international institutions.

Problems in reporting include skipped reports, lack of compliance with the reporting guidelines, and gaps in data, all of which make it difficult for the UN committee to recommend improvements.

GlobalChild will be a systematic method to gather data and generate comprehensive, consistent reports on policies, programs and outcomes based on sets of indicators. It will be piloted in BC, in an Indigenous community elsewhere in Canada, and in one Francophone region of the country. Once developed, the electronic user-friendly platform will be available for use by other signatories to the CRC.

One of the project’s major objectives is to adapt, in collaboration with Indigenous scholars and advocates, the indicators of GlobalChild for Indigenous children and develop I-GlobalChild, focused on the rights of Indigenous children of Canada who are among the most vulnerable children in the country with disproportionately high health and welfare problems.



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