

# Children Need Rights

## Update on the convention on the rights of the child.

Earlier this year, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights approved the draft on the Convention on the Rights of the Child submitted to it by the working group set up ten years previously to formulate the text. The draft will soon go before the UN General Assembly for consideration and, hopefully, adoption. Thus, 1989 could be a very symbolic year for children, as the adoption of the Convention this year would be a fitting commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of the rights of the child and the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Child.

The convention on the Rights of the Child is special because, for the first time in international law, children's rights are set out in a treaty which will be binding for those states that ratify it.

Under the convention, children have their own rights, and are supposed to be active in exercising them in accordance with their growth and evolving capacities.

The convention contains a number of general provisions aimed at securing the rights of all children in matters of importance to their fundamental needs and interests. In addition, it gives protection to children in specially difficult situations. When it en-

ters into force, this convention will set universally agreed standards for the protection of children and will provide an invaluable framework for advocacy on behalf of children in families, and for the development of programmes and policies that will ensure a healthier and safer future for children in every country in the world.

UNICEF is the only UN agency that is purely involved with addressing the problems of children in the developing world. Through its country offices, UNICEF co-operates with governments in their efforts to meet the needs of women and children.

About half the children in the developing countries remain beyond the reach of even minimum basic services. Therefore, a major part of UNICEF's work is to help countries plan, develop and extend these low-cost services in maternal and child health, clean water supply, nutrition, education and social services. An important condition for UNICEF's assistance is that children in need will benefit, without regard to race, colour, sex, creed, or the political beliefs of their parents.

In order to meet the needs and demands of the children in the developing world, UNICEF relies heavily on contributions and revenues generated from the sale of UNICEF cards and gifts. Money raised from the

purchase of UNICEF cards and gifts in Canada fund 25 Canadian UNICEF projects around the world.

This holiday season by UNICEF greeting cards and gifts and help UNICEF continue its life-saving work on the behalf of the millions of children from around the world.



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During this holiday season remember to buy UNICEF greeting cards and gifts. For a free colour brochure call toll-free 1-800-268-3770 or call your nearest UNICEF office.



"By simply purchasing UNICEF cards and gifts UNICEF was able to bring clean water to our village. We thank you with our lives."

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## Attention Seniors

Hi! This is your friendly neighborhood Class President writing. I thought I should give you guys a little insight as to what has happened since class elections.

Firstly, I'd like to thank all those who came out and voted

in the elections. Without the support of the students none of us would be here to help you. Myself and the other members of the executive, namely Earl Byrne, Michelle Fletcher and Andy MacAuley have begun holding regular meetings to prepare for Senior Week. We've come up with some good ideas and if anyone has any suggestions, please feel free to grab me or another member of the executive as we are open to any and all ideas you may have. We want Senior Week 1990 to be the best yet.

In the next few weeks we will be holding a class meeting. Keep your eyes open for posters saying time and place. Above all, come out and sit in on the meeting. We need your input and support to make this work. Also, a logo contest will be held (offering some lovely prizes) to try and find a design for Senior Week.

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