

Child Impact Assessments

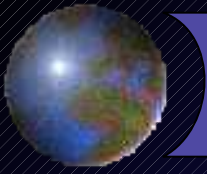
✦ Objectives:

- ✦ To encourage decision-makers to consider the child perspective seriously ***before*** decisions are made.
- ✦ To place the burden of proof on those who propose policies contrary to the child's best interests.
- ✦ To compensate for children's relative lack of political power.



✦ Requirements:

- ✦ Assessments must not be arbitrary or superficial
- ✦ Systems and supportive structures must be developed
- ✦ All members of organizations must incorporate a child perspective into their way of thinking



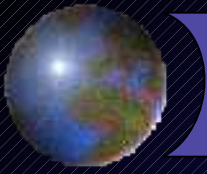
Five-step model
developed by the Children's Ombudsman



First Steps: Background Preparation

- ✦ Step 1: Gain knowledge of the CRC
- ✦ Step 2: Gain knowledge of how children's interests and rights are currently formulated in law and policy
- ✦ Step 3: Gain knowledge of children's needs through traditional and participatory research





Step 4: The Working Process

- ✦ Chart the plan for the assessment
- ✦ Analyze the relation of the proposed policy to the articles of the CRC
- ✦ Identify the children who will be affected
- ✦ Obtain children's views





Step 4: The Working Process *(cont'd)*

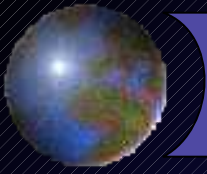
- ✦ Assess the **potential impact** of the policy from the child's perspective

- ✦ Assess the **financial cost** of the policy and identify who will bear it



Step 4: The Working Process *(cont'd)*

- ✦ Analyze the proposal and its potential consequences
 - ▣ relation to the provisions of the CRC
 - ▣ effects on vulnerable children
 - ▣ weighting of children's interests against other interests (e.g., economic)



Step 5: Testing and Decision-Making

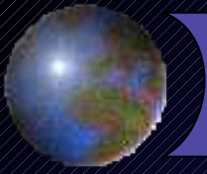
⊕ What is the best conceivable solution?



Step 5: Testing and Decision-Making *(cont'd)*

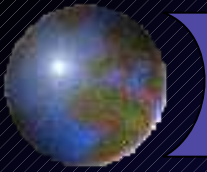
- ❖ The child's best interests *virtually always* must take precedence over those of adults.

- ❖ If other interests carry more weight (e.g., national economy, security policy), the decision-maker must show that the child's interests have been taken into account and explain why they must be deferred.
 - The decision should include compensatory measures.



Impact Evaluation

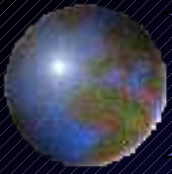
- ✦ Analysis of the consequences of the decision
 - ▣ Were the intended effects achieved?
 - ▣ Children must have the opportunity to participate
 - ▣ Leads to improvements in the assessment process



Documentation and Accounting

- ✦ Documentation of the data and the decision must be kept throughout the working process

- ✦ The process must be “transparent”



Summary





✦ What Does it Take
for Our Children to Blossom?

✦ Canada or Australia?

✦ Canada or New Zealand?

✦ Canada or Fiji?

✦ Canada or Solomon Islands?

✦ Canada or Australia?

✦ Canada or Tonga?

✦ Canada or Samoa?