

Canada's National Plan of Action for Children

Preamble: This document contains two letters. The first is a letter from Senator Landon Pearson's Office, Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Personal Representative of the PM, in which is described how to provide feedback to the Senator regarding *Canada's National Plan of Action (NPA)* for submission to the United Nations. You can submit feedback until Monday, January 23, 2004.

We invite you to read the second letter which is the feedback we sent to Senator Pearson with our request to have child torture—non-political torture, specifically ritual abuse-torture, included in the government document *Canada's National Plan of Action (NPA)*.

TAKING ACTION:

To express your activism spirits we encourage you to send an e-mail to: khana@sen.parl.gc.ca with the request that non-political torture, especially ritual abuse-torture be included in Canada's National Plan of Action for children.

FIRST LETTER: SENATOR LANDON PEARSON

SENATOR LANDON PEARSON From: "Khan, Andrea:SEN"
<khana@SEN.PARL.GC.CA>
Sent: Wednesday, December 03, 2003 3:19 PM
Subject: Canada's National Plan of Action for children

December 3, 2002

FROM SENATOR LANDON PEARSON

Re: Canada's National Plan of Action for children

Following extensive consultation and much work over the past year on preparing Canada's National Plan of Action (NPA) for submission to the United Nations, I am pleased to report that a draft is now available for review by you (and your membership).

Written comments can be e-mailed to Andrea Khan at khana@sen.parl.gc.ca <<mailto:khana@sen.parl.gc.ca>> until Monday, January 23, 2004.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for the observations and suggestions that have helped to shape the draft document.

In December 2002, we invited you to imagine the Canada and the world you would like to see in the year 2010 from the perspective of the children who live in it. Since then more than a thousand individuals and organizations from across the country have taken

part in one way or another in the civil society engagement process for Canada's NPA, a "national brainstorming activity" on children. There have been regional dialogues, focus groups, partner events and a variety of other activities that have brought us a wealth of information and ideas.

I promised to return to you with a draft for comment and here it is. Please let us know if anything crucial is missing from either the analysis or the priorities. We will get back to you with the final document next Spring when it is ready to be launched. I await your response with anticipation.

Sincerely,
Senator Landon Pearson
Advisor on Children's Rights to
To the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Personal Representative of the PM
To the Special Session on Children



[NPA Dec 3.pdf](#)



[stateholders.pdf](#)

SECOND LETTER: THIS IS OURS!

Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2003 01:18:51 -0400
To: sharon@sen.parl.gc.ca
From: twinn@auracom.com
Subject: Re: Canada's National Plan of Action for children

To: Senator Landon Pearson
Advisor on Children's Rights to
To the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Personal Representative of the PM
To the Special Session on Children

Re your request for feedback on *Canada's National Plan of Action for Children*

You **have not been listening** to us nor attending to the information we have sent you about Canadian children who are victims of acts of non-political torture!

Our quest to be caring of this specific group of children started in 1999 when we attended the meeting to develop the *Nova Scotia Response to the National Children's Agenda A*

Report on the 1999 Consultation Process December 1999. On page 11 of this report it was stated that "the word 'torture' was suggested in relation to victimization." So we were successful at a provincial level; however, from this moment on the reality of child torture has been totally dismissed in federal documents. The child victims made invisible by the total disregard and disrespect for the horrors they endure by the failure of federal documents to give voice to their horrific and life-threatening sufferings of torture!

You tell us why and how this can happen? Why is the word **child torture** not in this present report?

We speak to you, we send you documents, the Toronto Police speak of having videos on child torture, the National Panel Report on violence against women wrote three pages on the ritual abuse-torture of Canadian children ... and still you ignore their truth!

We can only assume that there has been a concerted effort to exclude the word torture whether it is made in reference to our immigrant children who have suffered or been exposed to acts of political torture or whether it is our Canadian children who have been victims of acts of non-political torture, including ritual abuse-torture.

We are asking you to please provide us with these answers ... you provide us with some understanding of how this can happen!

And for further information you can click on the website listed below to read how hard we are working for the children who have been/who are presently victims of non-political torture, especially ritual abuse-torture. The article tells about our volunteer efforts to present to the 48th Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations ... maybe you can offer to help us bring to life the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, particularly Article 37(a) and achieve respect, equality, and understanding for those children who remain "untouchable and invisible" in the *Canada's National Plan of Action for Children*.

http://www.halifaxchild.com/external/ritualabusetorture_abuse.html

Respectfully submitted

Jeanne Sarson RN, BScN, MEd & Linda MacDonald RN, BN, MEd

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