



# Living in the Community

A Panel Presentation to the CIAJ Conference on  
Youth Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System

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# Outline

- The Role of the Child and Youth Advocate and when to refer your Client
- A Child Rights Based Approach to Advocacy
  - Use of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
  - Child Rights Impact Assessments in N.B.
  - The Child Rights and Well-being Framework
  - A new focus on Art. 19 - preventing violence to children
- Proposals for Youth Mental Health Policy Reform

# How the Advocate's Process Can Assist your Client

- 12 year old facing charges by school authorities for the first time
- 14 year old girl in group home is a « runner »
- 18 year old NCR youth assault with a notebook
- When to refer

# A Child Rights Based Approach to Advocacy

- Use of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Child Rights Impact Assessments in N.B.
- The Child Rights and Well-being Framework
- 3rd Annual Summer Course on the Rights of the Child
- Rights Respecting Schools
- A new focus on Art. 19 - preventing harm to children
- CBA Children's Law Committee & UNCRC Sub-committee
- Supreme Court's use of the Convention as an interpretive guide:
  - Baker v. Minister of Citizenship and Immigration 1999
  - A.C. v. Manitoba (Dir. of Child and Family Services) 2009
  - A.B. v Bragg Communications Inc. 2012

# Proposals for Youth Mental Health Policy Reform

- Integrated Service Delivery – Connecting the Dots, 2008
- Centre of Excellence for Complex Needs Youth – Connecting the Dots, 2008 & Staying Connected, 2011
- New Brunswick Network of Excellence with DOTS-NB
- Adolescent Mental Health Research Chair
- Mental Health Mobile Crisis Units
- Youth Intervention and Diversion through Community CPOs
- PEER 126 & Safe spaces for youth to connect with care
- (CAR model) Keeping youth connected and engaged in learning
- Full implementation of YCJA –
  - Youth Justice Committees, s. 18
  - Judicial Conferences, s. 19
  - Improved YCJA pre-charge screening, s. 23
  - Improved Social Welfare Practice Standards for Youth in care facing charges.

# The last word

*It's easier to build strong children than to  
repair broken men*  
Frederick Douglass

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