

**Presentation of Canada's First Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child — February to June 1995**

Event/Process	Synopsis of the Event
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the preparation of the report to UN Committee on Children's Rights is the responsibility of Justice and Health for the federal portion and Heritage for coordination of reports from the provinces and territories;</li> <li>the report was presented to the UN Committee, the monitoring body for the Convention, in May 1995;</li> <li>this case study examines DFAIT's role in coordinating Canada's presentation and leading Candel.</li> </ul>
DFAIT Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To honour Canada's commitments by ensuring compliance with Convention monitoring procedures.</li> <li>To promote Canada's image with regard to the respect of children's rights.</li> </ul>
DFAIT value-added	<p><b>providing leadership:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AGH selected members of Candel, ensuring inclusion of adequate knowledge and expertise;</li> <li>AGH chaired four meetings of Candel to prepare a strategy for presentation at the UN;</li> <li>Permanent Mission to Geneva led Candel and delivered the opening statement to the UN Committee.</li> </ul> <p><b>providing expertise in international fora:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perm Mission to Geneva met with Committee members and States Parties who had presented reports to understand Committee workings, advise and prepare Candel for Committee questions, concerns.</li> </ul> <p><b>promoting Canada's image:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perm Mission to Geneva reworked Canada's Opening Statement prepared by Health Canada to promote Canada's image and ensure a favourable response from the Committee;</li> <li>DFAIT managed media relations during the presentation ensuring little negative coverage of Canada.</li> </ul>
Management of the Event	<p><b>priority setting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>presentation of the report to UN Committee was DFAIT priority given implications for Canada's image.</li> </ul> <p><b>planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>presentation of report followed predictable schedule at UN so planning and coordination were smooth;</li> <li>NGO lobbying of Committee during presentation had not been foreseen by Candel, although DFAIT leadership helped Candel respond to Committee concerns and deflect media attention in effective way.</li> </ul> <p><b>resource allocation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>two people from IMH involved in coordinating four Candel meetings prior to Geneva mission;</li> <li>three people from the Perm Mission to Geneva, including Acting Permanent Representative, were allocated on full-time basis for period Candel in Geneva;</li> <li>report presentation to the UN represents a small fraction of the human rights work done by IMH and Perm Mission to Geneva.</li> </ul> <p><b>coordination with stakeholders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candel members perceive DFAIT's role in presenting report as invaluable given their ability to access information on Committee concerns and their expertise operating in UN context;</li> <li>Candel members impressed with DFAIT's knowledge of domestic context for children in Canada and ability to field Committee's questions on a substantive domestic issues.</li> </ul>
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>concluding observations of Committee were relatively positive for Canada compared to other countries.</li> <li>little negative press regarding Canada's compliance with the Convention.</li> <li>Canadian stakeholders satisfied with the services and expertise DFAIT provided.</li> <li>given minimal investment of DFAIT's time and resources, Canada's image was effectively promoted.</li> </ul>