



Office of the Ombudsman, Children's Section

An Introduction to our Role and Function

Introduction

- What is the Ombudsman?
- The need for a Children's Section
- Proactive Role - Department of Justice
- Mistreatment of youth by a Municipal Police Force
- Proactive Role - Municipal Police and RCMP

What is the Ombudsman

- Independent Officer of Legislature
- Investigates Mal-administration of Provincial & Municipal laws/policies
- Impartial / Unbiased
- Does not represent Government or Complainant



The Need for a Children's Section

- Allegations of widespread abuse emerged from the youth residential centres
- Several reviews and investigations took place which has cost the Province of NS approximately 60 million dollars (including over 31 million in compensation claims to former residents)
- Reviews identified a need for a visible and objective presence in youth detention facilities
- Creation of a “Registry of Complaints” which is now referred to as the Children's Section

Children's Section

- Began as a “Registry of Complaints” in 1996
- Children in the care & custody of government
- Youth Represented - 18 years and under (unless court otherwise orders)

Children's Section Mission

Our mission is to ensure that the concerns of children and youth in or from government care will be examined in an independent, fair and unbiased manner.

Children's Section - Functions



- Ensure that youth have the opportunity to be heard and their rights are respected
- Ensure access to fair, responsive complaint and review processes
- Provide information and advice to government
- Investigate complaints or concerns from children and youth in care or custody

Proactive Role and Investigation Process in Justice

- Visit the facilities on a routine basis
- Goal: meet every child/youth entering the systems
- Available to both children/youth and staff/management
- Communication materials - youth and staff
- Monitor the 1-888-839-6884 youth line on a 365 day/year basis
- Unlimited access to the Ombudsman's Office

Communication Material

We have time



TO TALK



Children's Ombudsman



1-888-839-6884

if you are not happy with what happened, talk to the children's ombudsman. it's confidential.

Ke' kinu Kijka'



TLEWISTUNEJ




Ni'n na teluekey nutqo'ltijik apoqnuajil




1-888-839-6884

Mu wite'tmu'n ta'n kis-tla'lulk tlewistutogsip telueket nutqo'ltiliji apoqnuajiji. Ma'kjiitukw wen


Nous avons le temps



DE PARLER



L'Ombudsman des enfants



1-888-839-6884

Si vous n'êtes pas satisfait(e) de ce qui s'est passé, parlez-en à l'Ombudsman des enfants. C'est confidentiel.

Proactive Role and Investigation Process in Justice

- Provide regular information sessions to children/youth and staff
- Provide information on internal and external grievance procedures
- Produce regular reports to appropriate government officials
- Listen to all youth concerns
- Investigate as warranted/required
- Monitor recommendations
- Work on systemic issues



Mistreatment of a Youth by a Municipal Police Force

- Complaint from youth in custody
- Investigation with findings and recommendations
 - Audit of policing policies
 - Review of deficiencies in police training conducted
 - Training on youth rights offered
- All communication materials visibly displayed in municipal holding cells
- Policy change for all municipal police forces

CHILD AND YOUTH LOG RECORDING FORM

CASE NO: _____ JAIL FILE NO: _____ DATE: _____

YOUNG PERSON: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ARRESTING OFFICER: _____ DIVISION: _____

BROUGHT IN BY: _____ TIME: _____

OFFENCE / REASON FOR DETAINING: _____

Conditions of Release:

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONTACTED: (Name, Response, Contact Phone Number) _____

Officer: _____**Time:** _____

Video Tape #	Time On:	Time Off:	Cell #:
Jailer			
<i>NOTE: TO BE COMPLETED BY OFFICER IN CHARGE AT THE TIME OF YOUTH'S ARRIVAL.</i>			
CONDITION ON ARRIVAL:			

<p style="text-align: center;">NOTIFIED OF RIGHT TO CONTACT CHILDREN'S OMBUDSMAN</p> PHONE NO. 1-888-839-6884 YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> IF NO, PLEASE STATE REASON: _____			
NOTIFIED – SHOULD YOU REQUIRE A BLANKET DURING YOUR STAY, NOTIFY JAILER YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> IF NO, PLEASE STATE REASON: _____			
FEMALE OFFENDERS – SHOULD YOU REQUIRE FEMALE PROTECTION DURING YOUR STAY, NOTIFY JAILOR YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO, <input type="checkbox"/> IF NO, PLEASE STATE REASON: _____			
SIGNATURE OF OFFICER IN CHARGE: _____			
Concerns:	Medical <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional <input type="checkbox"/> Suicidal <input type="checkbox"/>		
Dr. Recommendation	_____		
Time Out Lockup:	_____		
Time Returned:	_____		
Transported by:	_____		

GUARD _____ RELEASED TO: _____

TIME: _____

Form-th05-2001

Proactive Role – RCMP

- Partnership – No jurisdiction over RCMP
- Reviewing (NS) Policy
- Posters in Cell/Admissions Area
- RCMP advise youth of Children's Section



Thank You