



November 29th marks the 8th provincial Children and Youth in Care Day in New Brunswick

FREDERICTON, November 29, 2021 – Officially proclaimed in 2013, our provincial *Children and Youth in Care Day* offers a chance to recognize and celebrate the lives and achievements of youth in the provincial care system. It serves as an opportunity raise awareness and reduce the stigma that is too often associated with being in care.

Proclaimed by official decree by Lieutenant-governor Jocelyne Roy-Vienneau, this important recognition came at the heels of a number of key recommendations put forth by members of our *New Brunswick Youth in Care Network* (NBYICN). With investment by the Province of New Brunswick and other key donors such as the Children’s Aid Foundation of Canada, the NBYICN is a program developed by current and former youth in care and supported by *Partners For Youth Inc.*; that seeks to engage and empower youth in care by involving them in highly supportive projects that focus on elements of self-fulfillment, leadership skills development, and peer-based social action.

An important aspect of the Youth in Care Network is advocating for change in legislation and policy that impact on youth in care. One year ago in November 2020, the New Brunswick Youth in Care Network released a report – *Repaving the Long Road Home*. Within this report there are 15 key recommendations such as increasing the age from 19 to 24, that youth are forced to transition out of the permanent care system. Today, we call on the government to provide a formal response to the 15 recommendations and to increase their commitment and support for New Brunswick youth in care.

In April 2020, the National Council of Youth in Care Advocates, of which we are a member, called upon provinces and territories to issue temporary moratoriums for youth who were expected to transition out of care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Youth in care are expected to transition out when they turn the age of majority which is 19 years’ old in NB. It was important to our network and young people in care that New Brunswick supported implementing a moratorium for youth who were expected to transition out of care during COVID-19. Thankfully, our government agreed and issued the temporary moratorium which is due to expire at the end of December 2021. Today, we call on the government to extend the moratorium until December 2022.

For more information on the NBYICN or any Partners for Youth Inc. programs, please visit our website at www.partnersforyouth.ca. You may also contact us by phone at 506-462-0323.

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