



# Convention on the Rights of the Child

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## Committee on the Rights of the Child Ninetieth session

### Summary record of the 2606th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Wednesday, 18 May 2022, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Otani

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*Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Canada (continued)*

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Consideration of reports of States parties** *(continued)*

*Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Canada (continued)* (CRC/C/CAN/5-6; CRC/C/CAN/Q/5-6; CRC/C/CAN/RQ/5-6)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Canada joined the meeting via video link.*
2. **Ms. St. Aubin** (Canada) said that, while suicide rates were stable overall, suicide among young women was on the rise. Government efforts focused on reducing stigma, raising awareness, facilitating access to information and support, and stepping up research on prevention. The Government had increased its investment in the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health over a five-year period and worked with partners to implement and sustain a pan-Canadian Suicide Prevention Service, which operated an around-the-clock crisis hotline. Special funding had been made available to boost the capacity of mental health services for young persons during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
3. **Ms. Gélinas** (Canada) said that, in response to concerns about the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children's mental health, the government of Quebec had adopted an interministerial action plan to facilitate access to quality mental health services. Under the plan, what were known as "aire ouverte" facilities had been established where young persons aged 12 to 25 years could seek support from a team of nurses, social workers and other professionals. Five such facilities were already in place and others were planned. A digital platform had been created to support suicide prevention efforts by offering specialist counselling and advice via child-friendly modalities such as webchats. Additional funding had been made available to expand the working hours and build the capacity of suicide prevention centres. The government of Quebec had also provided funding to enable educational institutions to admit more students to psychology courses with a view to overcoming the shortage of psychologists.
4. **Ms. Turner** (Canada) said that the Pillars for Life suicide prevention plan provided guidance for prevention activities and initiatives specific to the cultural and social landscape of Saskatchewan. The plan drew on input from the Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth and the Saskatchewan First Nations Suicide Prevention Strategy. The Saskatchewan Strategy for Suicide Prevention Act of 2021 set out a blueprint for action, and regulated bodies were required to publish annual progress reports on the impact of suicide prevention measures. A suicide prevention campaign had been launched on social media. The government of Saskatchewan invested in the continued development of the Integrated Youth Services initiative, which was a one-stop shop for quality, evidence-based support for youth and their families. The provincial government also provided funding to the Roots of Hope suicide prevention project of the Mental Health Commission of Canada and had formally committed to working with the federal government and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations to combat suicide among First Nations people in Saskatchewan.
5. Under the Respite for Families Caring for a Child with Intellectual Disabilities Programme, parents or guardians were provided with a means-tested monthly benefit to pay for short-term alternative care or additional supervision and support for children with disabilities. Individualized funding was available for children with autism spectrum disorder up to the age of 11 years. The Cognitive Disability Strategy addressed needs that were not met by other programmes. Clinical services responded to dangerous and harmful behaviours by furnishing support for the child, the parents and service providers. Clinicians also researched, developed and delivered educational programmes for children with disabilities.
6. **Ms. Geh** (Canada) said that a range of support services and testimonial aids were available to child victims and witnesses. Funding was provided for child advocacy centres whose victim support staff accompanied children giving testimony in court. Some child advocacy centres had established remote testimony rooms. The Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime facilitated access to programmes and services, reviewed concerns regarding non-compliance with legislation or policies, and identified and explored systemic and emerging victims' issues. The federal Victims Bill of Rights Act also contained specific provisions on child victims.

7. Canada had a strong non-discrimination legal framework. Additional measures had been adopted during the reporting period to address discrimination and support substantive equality. Some of those measures were aimed at strengthening the rights of all children in sectors such as education and health, while others were specific to vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities and indigenous children. The Anti-Racism Strategy 2019–2022 focused on improving social and economic outcomes for indigenous people, racialized communities and religious minorities. In the context of broader efforts to protect transgender and other gender-diverse people, the Criminal Code had been amended in 2021 to ban conversion therapy.

8. **Mr. Marder** (Canada) said that, with regard to the repatriation of Canadian children detained in camps in the Syrian Arab Republic, it was important to note that Canada had had no diplomatic representation in that country since 2012. Having been apprised of the dire conditions inside the camps by other reliable sources, the Government provided consular assistance to the extent possible, given the difficult security situation on the ground, and continued to advocate for the children's health and safety and the consideration of their best interests.

9. **Mr. Dendooven** (Canada) said that the Canadian public education system offered diverse opportunities for free, creative and structured play, both during class and in extracurricular activities. Schools also provided mental health services to children and young persons. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the range of specialized mental health services available to students in the Northwest Territories had been broadened; the government of British Columbia had announced that it planned to make a substantial investment over a three-year timespan to improve school-based mental health services.

10. Efforts were under way at all levels to remove systemic, social and institutional barriers to access to education for children with disabilities. In Alberta, students with special needs were provided with additional support. Diversity and inclusion were at the heart of his country's identity. Efforts were being made to enhance awareness of the history of all Canadians and eliminate discrimination and race-based inequality. In Manitoba, the school curricula covered First Nations and Inuit history, heritage and culture.

11. **Ms. Conboy** (Canada) said that the Youth Criminal Justice Act had been amended in 2019 to further restrict the use and length of pretrial detention. In accordance with the Gladue Principles, the sentencing judge had to consider the unique circumstances of indigenous offenders and give preference to non-custodial options. Young offenders could request a Gladue report, which was one way of ensuring that those principles were applied, but some indigenous youth preferred to seek out other avenues in order to avoid the potential trauma involved in revisiting their past. Provincial and territorial governments also provided support to young persons during imprisonment and on their release. In Newfoundland and Labrador, young people in secure custody were provided with schooling and medical, psychiatric, psychological and social services. In Alberta, young offenders were placed in community-based open-custody group homes, where they were taught culinary, budgeting, pro-social, recreational, time management and other skills.

12. **Mr. Vaillancourt** (Canada) said that the National Housing Strategy adopted pursuant to the 2019 National Housing Strategy Act took a rights-based approach to housing. The Strategy drew on research findings, feedback from users and stakeholders, and programme evaluations to identify barriers to adequate housing and prioritized funding for housing projects that would serve vulnerable groups, notably women and children. Priority was also given to funding proposals from indigenous partners, and the review process for projects serving indigenous communities was based on separate, more flexible procedures. Under the 2020 Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, the Government worked with individual communities to develop and deliver projects in line with local priorities. The chief goal was to reduce chronic homelessness by 50 per cent by 2028.

13. Sturdy legal frameworks were in place to protect children from labour exploitation. Employment standards, including the minimum age of employment, fell within the jurisdiction of the provinces and territories. Most jurisdictions granted young people access to employment and work experience while protecting their health and safety and seeking to meet their developmental and educational needs.

14. First Nations students with special education needs could access additional quality services through the High-Cost Special Education Programme. The 2021 Accessibility Act Canada provided for a proactive, systemic approach to identifying, removing and averting barriers to accessibility. Under the Accessible Canada Regulations developed pursuant to the Act, regulated entities were required to publish a progress report on the success of their policies and practices in order to inform future efforts.

15. **Ms. Barr-Telford** (Canada) said that the 2019 Health Survey on Children and Youth had yielded comprehensive data on the physical and mental well-being of children, including children with disabilities. In 2022 and 2023, data would be collected on the type and severity of the disabilities of persons, including those between 15 and 18 years of age, whose daily activities were limited because of their condition or related problems and on the use of childcare services by children with disabilities. The 2023 Health Survey on Children and Youth would include additional questions on mental health, emotional behaviour, non-suicidal self-harm, COVID-19 stressors and child mistreatment. Some data on the impact of the pandemic on families of children with disabilities had been obtained early on through innovative crowdsourcing. A special interactive tool had been used to assess the impact of COVID-related school closures on students. A pan-Canadian health data strategy was in the pipeline that would be used to improve data interoperability, access and literacy and to harmonize data standards.

16. **Mr. Linder** (Canada) said that the Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the United States of America was subject to continual evaluation in the light of instruments such as the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and other treaties. The United States currently satisfied those requirements, but any decision reached under that agreement could certainly be challenged in court. One such claim was currently before the Supreme Court of Canada.

17. All persons in an irregular immigration situation had access to free emergency health care; non-emergency care was available in most provinces and territories. Undocumented persons who had been residing in the country for a minimum of six months were also granted access to free health care; during the first six months, services were subject to a fee.

18. **Ms. Gélinas** (Canada) said that legislation had been amended in 2021 to grant children with an irregular immigration status access to health insurance and basic prescription drug insurance plans in Quebec, provided that they lived in the province for a continuous period of more than six months per year. Children were exempt from the three-month waiting time for access to health care. Since the new provisions had entered into force, 22,000 children had gained access to health insurance.

19. Pursuant to the 2017 Act to Amend the Education Act and other legislative provisions concerning free educational services and compulsory school attendance, all children habitually resident in Quebec had access to free public education, regardless of their immigration or nationality status. The Act guaranteed the confidentiality of immigration status in order to encourage school enrolment.

20. **Ms. White** (Canada) said that, under Jordan's Principle, funding was allocated to health, social and education products and services for First Nations children. Canada was working to uphold Jordan's Principle in cooperation with First Nations partners to ensure that children from those communities had equal access to such services. Since 2016, a total of 2.5 billion Canadian dollars (Can\$) had been allocated for that purpose.

21. Over the previous two years, Canada had been implementing the order of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal concerning the Government's definition of Jordan's Principle while working with the other parties to the case to reach a lasting resolution of the issues that had been raised. To allow the parties time for meaningful discussions, the Canadian Government, the Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations had agreed to pause further litigation around the Tribunal's decision. Agreements in principle had been reached, and the Government was working with the Tribunal and the Federal Courts to achieve a final settlement as soon as possible. Under the agreements in principle, the Government had committed Can\$ 20 billion in compensation for First Nations children in the Yukon who had been removed from their homes between 1991 and 2022 and for those who had been

adversely affected by the Government's narrow definition of Jordan's Principle. Furthermore, approximately Can\$ 20 billion would be allocated over a five-year period to reform the First Nations Child and Family Services Programme.

22. The Government and First Nations communities were working in partnership to build long-term and sustainable solutions for access to safe drinking water. Despite significant progress, achievement of the target to end all long-term drinking water advisories by the end of March 2021 had been delayed owing to a number of challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, manufacturing and shipping delays for parts, a short winter road season, inclement weather and the reduced availability of contractors. There were approximately 30 long-term drinking water advisories at present; action plans were in place to assist all affected communities.

23. **Ms. Kapelus** (Canada) said that an additional Can\$ 4 billion had been allocated in 2022 to improve housing for indigenous communities. The Government had worked with First Nations partners to develop a national housing and infrastructure strategy, which had been endorsed by the Assembly of First Nations in 2018. Specific housing strategies led by Inuit and Métis peoples guided the allocation of funding to the most vulnerable people in their communities. The Nunatsiavut government had partnered with the government of Newfoundland and Labrador to provide vulnerable families with housing and ensure that children who were at risk of placement in foster care could remain in their communities. Métis Nation governments had launched programmes to address housing-related issues such as overcrowding, disrepair and affordability.

24. All Indian residential schools had been closed. In 2007, Canada had begun implementing a national settlement agreement under which compensation was being provided to former residents, independent assessment processes in connection with claims of sexual or serious physical abuse had been conducted, funding had been allocated for national and community-based commemoration programmes and endowments had been provided to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. Dedicated mental health initiatives were in place at the community level to address the intergenerational impact of children's placement in those residential schools.

25. Various indigenous organizations, governments of all the provinces and territories and the federal government had collaborated in the preparation of the action plan launched in follow-up to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Many of the organizations continued to work on its implementation and were preparing a progress report that was to be published later in 2022. Key legislation had been passed to support the plan, including the Indigenous Languages Act, the Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. In addition, the governments of the country's 13 provinces and territories had signed the Joint Declaration for a Canada Free of Gender-Based Violence.

26. **Ms. Bérubé** (Canada) said that her Government took into account the best interests of children when deploying efforts to combat climate change. Ambitious measures had been taken under the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan to safeguard the planet and children's futures. Intergenerational responsibility was one of the guiding principles underlying the Federal Sustainable Development Act and the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy for 2022–2026. Under its Youth Policy, Canada sought to involve children and take their views into account when developing measures to combat climate change and protect the environment. The Government would soon establish the new Environment and Climate Change Youth Council, which would advise the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on such matters from a children's perspective.

27. Remedies were available at the provincial and federal levels for challenging the decisions of the Government and its institutions, including those pertaining to the environment and climate change. The Government provided support to persons harmed by climate-related natural disasters; in 2021, for example, it had given financial assistance to families adversely affected by the floods in British Columbia.

28. **Mr. Dakalbab** (Canada) said that when the Canada Border Services Agency detained migrants, it did so in compliance with all fundamental procedural safeguards and respected the rights of detainees as laid down in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The

Agency met the highest possible performance standards in ensuring the physical and mental health and well-being of detainees while protecting the safety and security of Canadian citizens. Detention was limited to cases where there was a serious flight risk or the individual in question had not been identified or posed a danger to the public. The Agency gave non-governmental and international organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), open access to detention centres. Furthermore, the Canadian Red Cross monitored the living conditions and treatment of migrants in immigration holding centres and other places of deprivation of liberty to ensure compliance with Canadian and international law. The Agency's annual report could be consulted on its website.

29. In November 2017, a ministerial direction had been issued to the Canada Border Services Agency ordering it to refrain from detaining children and to keep families together to the maximum extent possible. If an unaccompanied minor was detained, the Agency notified the Canadian Red Cross, which assessed the child's situation and determined whether monitoring visits were called for. Alternatives to detention were always considered first.

30. In 2020, the Government had provided support for more than 20 projects working to raise young persons' awareness of the risk of trafficking. In 2020 and 2021, two workshops had been held with students and software developers to discuss ideas on how technology and social media could be used to combat human trafficking and to familiarize young persons with their rights under the Convention.

31. **Ms. Gélinas** (Canada) said that, in 2020, the police in Quebec had received more than 2,200 reports of sexual exploitation offences, one third of which had involved persons under 18 years of age. As a result, in 2021, the provincial government had introduced an action plan entitled *Briser le cycle de l'exploitation sexuelle* (Break the cycle of sexual exploitation) to tackle the problem and assist victims. It set out a series of measures in five priority areas which had achieved significant results. A national campaign had been carried out to raise awareness among the population, especially children and parents, of the consequences of the sexual exploitation of minors. As of early 2022, the content produced by that campaign had received around 2 million views across all distribution channels. The government of Quebec had increased funding for police units as part of its efforts to combat sexual exploitation.

32. **Ms. St. Aubin** (Canada) said that the most recent data did not point to any increase in the incidence of HIV among adolescents between 15 and 19 years of age; in 2020, persons in that age bracket had accounted for only 1.5 per cent of all new HIV diagnoses. However, the infection rates for chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis for that age group had risen over the past 10 years. In response to a particularly large spike in syphilis cases, an investigative and coordinating committee had been set up in 2019 to provide a forum for collaborative work across jurisdictions to monitor the syphilis epidemic nationwide and share public health measures and best practices.

33. To alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, the Government had increased the Canada Child Benefit and had strengthened coordination between the federal government and the provincial and territorial governments to supplement the funding provided under the Early Learning and Childcare Framework. The Government had provided additional funding to crisis helplines, including those targeted at children and adolescents, and to mental health programmes and services in order to address the pandemic's impact on the mental health of children and adolescents. It also supported a national suicide prevention service where trained responders provided bilingual assistance. The Public Health Agency of Canada had allocated Can\$ 15 million to Kids Help Phone to fund its crisis support services, which were accessible by telephone and text message.

34. **Ms. Skelton** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) said that it was unclear to her whether there was a coordinated, nationwide suicide prevention strategy.

35. **Ms. Marshall-Harris** (Country Task Force) said that she would like to know whether the use of solitary confinement for juvenile offenders had been prohibited. She would be interested to hear whether a system was in place to register all migrant children who arrived at the border, whether any special assessment was carried out to detect mental health issues

or counselling needs and whether there was any mechanism to safeguard their rights and ensure suitable care.

36. **Mr. Gudbrandsson** (Country Task Force) said that it remained unclear how the housing strategy accommodated the needs of families in which a parent or child had disabilities. He would like to know whether the Accessible Canada Act contained any measures to support indigenous children with disabilities who lived on reserves.

37. **Ms. Aho** said that she wondered how areas that were under drinking water advisories were supplied with drinking water and other basic commodities, especially in view of the sometimes vast distances over which they had to be transported. She wished to know whether instructions and codes of conduct at rehabilitation centres for indigenous adolescents were translated into indigenous languages, whether educators at those centres spoke those languages and what steps had been taken to preserve the cultures of indigenous children at the centres.

38. She would be interested to learn whether there was an oversight mechanism for children who were placed with foster families, especially in the case of adolescents who suffered from mental health issues or addiction. In view of a recent case where three teachers had been arrested for sexually abusing children in sports clubs, she would welcome information about measures to prevent such abuse.

39. **Mr. Van Keirsbilck** said that he wished to know whether a system was in place to allow access to medical treatment for migrant children who had been in the country for less than six months and whether they were informed of their right to health care. He wondered whether Canada had a national mechanism for monitoring places where children were deprived of their liberty.

40. **Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi** (Country Task Force) said that she would like to know what concrete measures had been taken to uphold human rights, particularly children's rights, in the private sector.

41. While she welcomed the significant decrease in child poverty, she would like to know whether steps had been taken to coordinate the strategies to combat poverty, reduce food insecurity and ensure access to housing. She wished to know whether those strategies included measurable goals and whether they had the necessary funding.

42. Canada was a pioneer in combating violence against children, and she therefore failed to understand why section 43 of the Criminal Code had not been repealed. She wished to clarify that prohibiting corporal punishment did not necessarily involve criminalizing the practice. She would like to know if the Government had taken that nuance into consideration.

*The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.*

43. **Ms. St. Aubin** (Canada) said that provincial and territorial suicide prevention activities were aligned within a federal framework. That framework also complemented the prevention work carried out in indigenous communities. The Government was working to ensure that provinces, territories and national organizations collaborated on suicide prevention measures.

44. **Ms. Geh** (Canada) said that the Supreme Court of Canada decision on section 43 of the Criminal Code was binding on all courts in the country and significantly limited the kinds of corrective force that could be legally used. In its decision, the Supreme Court had referred to the international treaty obligations by which Canada was bound, including the Convention. Measures had been taken to promote positive parenting and familiarize teachers and parents with alternatives to harsh disciplinary methods.

45. Any person whose rights were guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms could initiate legal action to protect those rights. Individuals, including children, who felt they had been discriminated against could file a complaint with a federal, provincial or territorial human rights commission or tribunal. Legislation and programmes were in place that provided for the legal representation of children in judicial and administrative proceedings. In several provinces and territories, the Office of the Children's Lawyer provided independent legal counsel to children.

46. **Ms. Conboy** (Canada) said that the vast majority of juvenile justice cases resulted in the imposition of a sentence provided for under the Youth Criminal Justice Act rather than a sentence for adults provided for under the Criminal Code. In the rare instances where this was not the case, the prosecution had to prove that the accused had the maturity and moral capacity of an adult at the time of the offence and that the imposition of a youth sentence would not be sufficient to hold that person accountable. No portion of a custodial sentence could be served in an adult facility while the person was under the age of 18 years.

47. Provincial and territorial governments were working to limit the use of solitary confinement for young people. For example, in the Province of Alberta, youth incarceration practices were being reviewed in response to reports by the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate and the Alberta Ombudsman. In 2017, youth custody regulations in the Province of British Columbia had been amended to ban the use of confinement as a punitive measure for young people.

48. **Ms. White** (Canada) said that, in areas where there were issues with water quality, Indigenous Services Canada provided bottled water, trucked in water or operated reverse osmosis systems. A rapid response was ensured through cooperation with regional offices and the community in question. There were plans in place to make it possible to lift all drinking water advisories as soon as possible.

49. In keeping with Jordan's Principle, the Government provided funding for indigenous agencies and local communities to employ navigators who familiarized people with the services available to them and assisted persons with disabilities in accessing those services.

50. While most indigenous children spoke English or French, the importance of language preservation and the need for cultural continuity and access to cultural support were taken into account when making placement decisions.

51. **Mr. Marder** (Canada) said that the Government was considering acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Federal, provincial and territorial governments were engaging in consultations on the subject. The Government had undertaken an analysis to identify any gaps between the requirements of the Optional Protocol and the measures already in place in Canada. A careful assessment was needed in order to gauge the impact on the operations of the institutions that could be designated as national preventive mechanisms. Progress had been made, and the process was ongoing.

52. **Mr. Dendooven** (Canada), responding to the Committee's question about an incident at the Saint Laurent secondary school in Montreal, said that the delegation was not in a position to comment on cases that were before the courts.

53. **Ms. Mackenzie** (Canada) said that the Minister of Community Services was responsible for foster care services in the Province of Nova Scotia. The children and their parents and foster parents were supported by social workers, and services were provided to ensure that the children's social, educational and health needs were being met.

54. **Ms. Ainslie** (Canada) said that a new position, the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, had been established in 2021. People with substance abuse issues were assisted in line with a compassionate, collaborative strategy providing for public health services, education, and harm reduction and treatment. Since 2017, the federal government had been working with the provinces and territories to address the drug overdose crisis. It had set up a new emergency fund to improve access to evidence-based treatment services, provide culturally appropriate treatment for members of indigenous communities and train health-care providers. Health Canada awarded funding for innovative local projects that were raising awareness about the health effects of substance abuse. It had also launched the "Know More" campaign, which provided information to young people about the dangers of opioids at schools, festivals and other events throughout the country. The "Pursue Your Passion" campaign worked throughout the country to raise awareness among young people of the effects of cannabis use on brain development.

55. **Mr. Linder** (Canada) said that refugees, including those arriving from Ukraine, had full access to health care and mental health services. Some 100,000 visas had been issued to refugees from Ukraine and around 30,000 had already arrived in Canada. The Government



spent over Can\$ 1 billion a year on settlement services for refugees. Some 70,000 refugees were expected to arrive in Canada in 2022.

56. Persons without lawful immigration status in Canada could still access treatment at hospital emergency rooms. The information that they provided in such situations was protected by strong patient confidentiality laws. All provinces and territories had free helplines that provided information about the services that were available.

57. **Mr. Vaillancourt** (Canada) said that evictions fell under the jurisdiction of the provinces, and the principle of the best interests of the child was taken into consideration in provincial policies on that matter. For example, in New Brunswick, eviction from social housing and rural and indigenous housing units was always a last resort and was preceded by mechanisms for helping families in financial difficulties.

58. In order to encourage the development of adequate housing for persons with disabilities, national housing programmes prioritized projects that were accessible and close to transport services and employment opportunities. The goal was to provide 2,400 new housing units for persons with developmental disabilities over the coming years.

59. All the many dimensions of poverty were addressed through collaborative efforts at all levels of government. Housing, food security and poverty reduction strategies were linked and included indicators for measuring the country's progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

60. **Ms. Barr-Telford** (Canada) said that Canada took a whole-government approach to combating poverty, and the child poverty rate in Canada had been halved. The poverty line was set using the method provided for in the Government's poverty reduction strategy, along with a dashboard of 12 indicators used to track progress in reducing it. Those indicators included unmet housing needs, unmet health needs, food insecurity, and literacy and numeracy rates.

61. **Ms. St. Aubin** (Canada) said that her Government took a federal approach to implementing the Convention and its Optional Protocols on the basis of intergovernmental and interdepartmental cooperation mechanisms.

62. **Ms. Skelton** said that, over the course of the dialogue, the Committee had heard several examples of carefully considered laws, policies and practices, including indigenous and youth-led initiatives, regarding the implementation of the Convention. It was clear that a great deal of progress had been made, but some gaps remained.

63. **Ms. St. Aubin** (Canada), thanking the Committee for its questions, said that progress made in the area of children's rights was the result of concerted government efforts and significant public debate. The Government was working to increase the resources available to monitor the effects of policies on children's rights, and a new evaluation mechanism was to be launched in the coming months. A new anti-racism strategy would be introduced in 2022, and further investment would be made in combating online child sexual exploitation. The Government would continue to work to respond more effectively to the needs of all children.

*The meeting rose at 5 p.m.*