



ALBERTA
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Lesser Slave Lake*

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I am pleased to bring greetings to the Layla Isaac Foundation and the Region of Wood Buffalo in recognition of National Child Day.

National Child Day highlights the importance of putting children first by educating them on their rights and giving children a voice. Young people should be heard everywhere and every day on issues and decisions that affect them. The theme for National Child Day this year is the Right to Identity – a right that includes respect for diversity and inclusion. Every child is entitled to their personal, social, and cultural identity – it is the basis for their physical and mental health, and emotional security. Respecting a child's right to identity helps them reach their full potential.

Our government is working to ensure children have a voice and are heard and supported. This means making sure school environments respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging, including support for Gay-Straight Alliances. It also means supporting families with access to affordable, \$25-per-day child care and the Alberta Child Benefit.

This summer, the Layla Isaac Foundation demonstrated remarkable leadership in supporting your region's young people, empowering 200 youth to have a voice at Wood Buffalo Youth Day. I also know this region's caring, hard-working community partners share this common goal to support children and empower them to be themselves. It is clear the child- and youth-serving organizations in Wood Buffalo will continue this strong advocacy and community spirit to support the rights of children and youth.

On National Child Day, I encourage you to help spread the message and wear blue to show your support for the rights of children. You can also share your National Child Day celebration photos, stories, and videos with [@NatlChildDay](#) on social media using the hashtags #NationalChildDay and #childrenhaverights.

Thank you for everything you do to support safe, happy, and healthy children and families in Alberta.

Sincerely,

Danielle Larivee
Minister