

THE AMPLIFIERS

ISSUES ON THE MINDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE...

MAGAZINE

WHEN WHEN
YOUNG PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE
USE THEIR LOSE THEIR
VOICE  
OR  OR  OR
THEIR IS THEIR IS
NOTHING NOTHING
MORE MORE
BEAUTIFUL TRAGIC



VOICE,
LIKE FOOD,
IS A BASIC RIGHT
THAT ALL YOUNG
PEOPLE HAVE.

JUST A TASTE



TO AMPLIFY. TO GIVE A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS. TO BRING DARKNESS TO LIGHT. THE AMPLIFIERS ARE A GROUP OF YOUTH WHO PUT THE ACT INTO ACTION, STRIVING TO BE THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN YOUTH AND ADULTS, AND INFORMING YOUNG PEOPLE THAT THEY HAVE RIGHTS AS STATED UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD (UNCRC) AND UNDER THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT IN ONTARIO.

FROM THE NORTH TO THE SOUTH OF ONTARIO, THE AMPLIFIERS HAVE TRAVELLED TO MEET AND SHARE EXPERIENCES WITH OTHER YOUTH, AND HAVE PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES THAT DEAL WITH THEMES AND ISSUES RELATED TO CHILD AND YOUTH RIGHTS.

INSPIRED BY OUR TRAVELS AND EXPERIENCES, WE CAME UP WITH THE IDEA THAT WE WANTED TO SHARE THE CONCERNS, HOPES AND TRIUMPHS OF YOUTH. THAT IS HOW THE AMPLIFIERS MAGAZINE HAS SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY, THANKS TO ALL THE SUBMISSIONS FROM YOUTH WHO PARTICIPATED IN BUILDING IT.

OUR FIRST EDITION OF THE AMPLIFIERS MAGAZINE IS IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETION AND WE HOPE THAT, AFTER READING THIS SHORT EXTRACT FROM THE MAGAZINE, OUR READERS WILL LOOK FORWARD TO THE FULL EDITION!

OUR LAST WORDS TO ALL: "SPEAK FOR YOUR RIGHTS!"

YOURS SINCERELY,

THE AMPLIFIERS



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RIGHTS FOR
FIRST NATIONS

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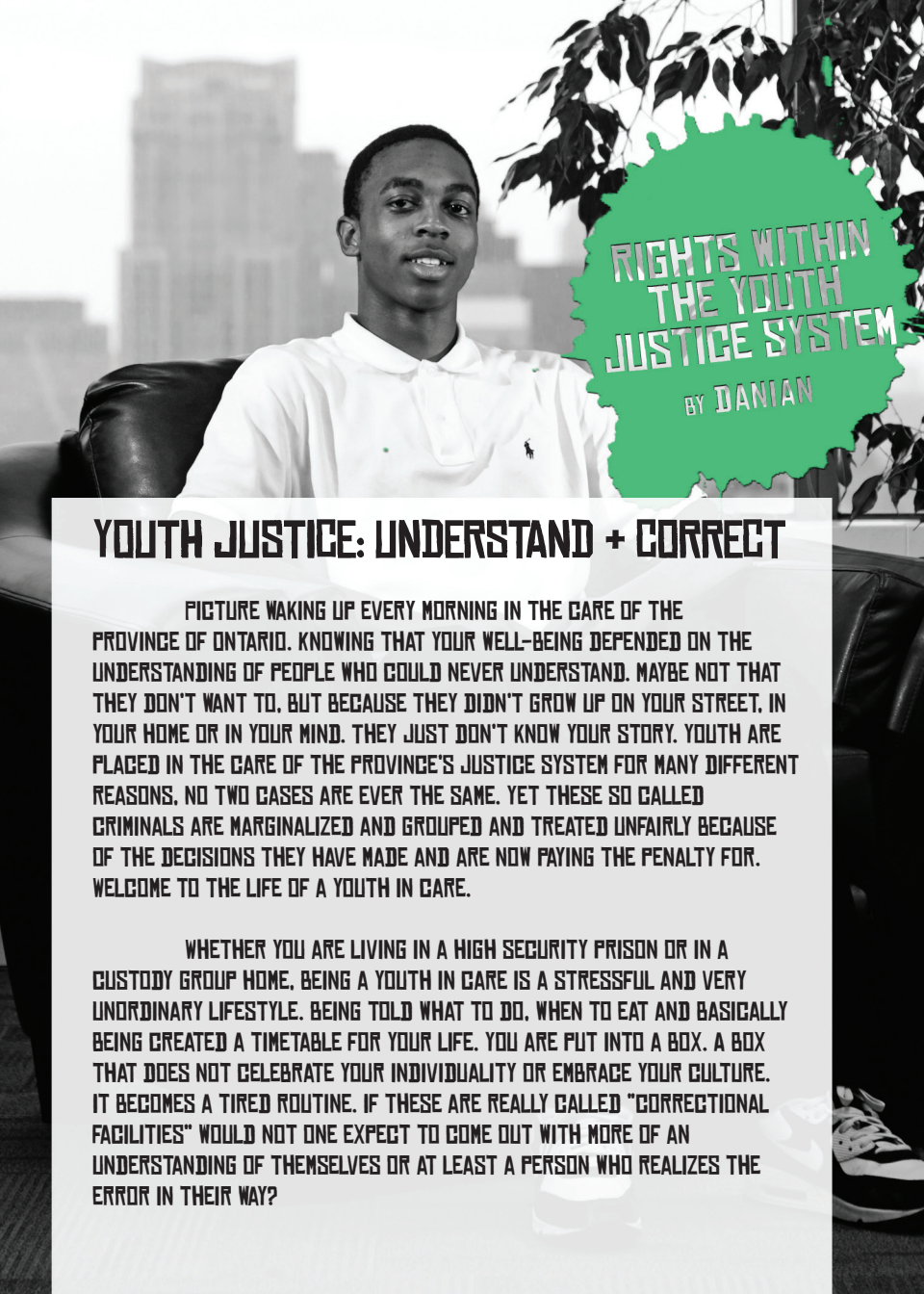
OUR CHILDREN: INVEST IN THE FUTURE

I AM DARRIN FIDDLER FROM SANDY LAKE ONTARIO. I AM SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD AND I AM CURRENTLY ATTENDING DENNIS FRANKLIN CROMARTY HIGH SCHOOL IN THUNDER BAY ONTARIO.

HERE ARE SOME OTHER ISSUES FACED EACH DAY BY FIRST NATIONS YOUTH IN NORTHERN COMMUNITIES: POOR HOUSING QUALITY, LOW MEDICAL SERVICES, HIGH FOOD COST, INADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, AND DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ABUSE.

GROWING UP IN THESE CONDITIONS AND IN AN ISOLATED NORTHERN COMMUNITY MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO GROW UP WITH THE POSITIVE HEALTHY LIFE STYLE. PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY: "OUR YOUTH ARE THE FUTURE". IF THAT IS TRUE, WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO ASSIST OUR FUTURE LEADERS IN NORTHERN FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES?

A 2006 REPORT REVEALS THAT THE ABORIGINAL POPULATION HAS GROWN SIX TIMES FASTER THAN THE NON-ABORIGINAL POPULATION WITH THE 45% INCREASE FROM 1996 TO 2006. THAT IS A VERY LARGE GROUP OF FIRST NATIONS YOUTH READY TO MAKE A CHANGE! WHAT HAS BEEN DONE FOR THESE FUTURE LEADERS? TO SOME, IT FEELS LIKE THERE HAS BEEN NOT ENOUGH DONE TO SUPPORT THE FIRST NATIONS YOUTH. I FEEL THAT INVESTING TODAY IN TOMORROW'S LEADERS WILL RESULT IN NO FAILURE TOMORROW.

A young Black man with short hair, wearing a white polo shirt, is sitting in a black leather chair. He is looking slightly to his right with a calm expression. In the background, a blurred city skyline is visible. To the right, there is a green, splatter-like graphic containing text.

RIGHTS WITHIN THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM

BY DANIAN

YOUTH JUSTICE: UNDERSTAND + CORRECT

PICTURE WAKING UP EVERY MORNING IN THE CARE OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO. KNOWING THAT YOUR WELL-BEING DEPENDED ON THE UNDERSTANDING OF PEOPLE WHO COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND. MAYBE NOT THAT THEY DON'T WANT TO, BUT BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T GROW UP ON YOUR STREET, IN YOUR HOME OR IN YOUR MIND. THEY JUST DON'T KNOW YOUR STORY. YOUTH ARE PLACED IN THE CARE OF THE PROVINCE'S JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR MANY DIFFERENT REASONS. NO TWO CASES ARE EVER THE SAME. YET THESE SO CALLED CRIMINALS ARE MARGINALIZED AND GROUPED AND TREATED UNFAIRLY BECAUSE OF THE DECISIONS THEY HAVE MADE AND ARE NOW PAYING THE PENALTY FOR. WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF A YOUTH IN CARE.

WHETHER YOU ARE LIVING IN A HIGH SECURITY PRISON OR IN A CUSTODY GROUP HOME, BEING A YOUTH IN CARE IS A STRESSFUL AND VERY UNORDINARY LIFESTYLE. BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO, WHEN TO EAT AND BASICALLY BEING CREATED A TIMETABLE FOR YOUR LIFE. YOU ARE PUT INTO A BOX. A BOX THAT DOES NOT CELEBRATE YOUR INDIVIDUALITY OR EMBRACE YOUR CULTURE. IT BECOMES A TIRED ROUTINE. IF THESE ARE REALLY CALLED "CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES" WOULD NOT ONE EXPECT TO COME OUT WITH MORE OF AN UNDERSTANDING OF THEMSELVES OR AT LEAST A PERSON WHO REALIZES THE ERROR IN THEIR WAY?



A YOUTH MAY END UP IN CARE BY COMMITTING A CRIME, YES, BUT THE SITUATION MUST BE ANALYZED AND BE DEALT WITH CAREFULLY. LET'S TAKE AN EXAMPLE OF A YOUTH THAT IS IN DIRE STRAITS AND IS TRYING TO FEED HIS FAMILY AND RESORTS TO SELLING DRUGS AND A LIFE OF CRIME. LET'S CALL HIM JEROME. HE IS ARRESTED PUT ON TRIAL AND CHARGED GUILTY AND IS LEFT IN A DETENTION CENTRE WITH HIS FAMILY STILL IN A NEGATIVE. THIS YOUTH IS NOW GROWING MORE ENRAGED AND IS NOT BEING SHOWN THE CORRECT WAY OF SOLVING HIS SITUATION BECAUSE HE IS NOT UNDERSTOOD. THE KEY INGREDIENT FOR THE PROVINCE TO CREATE A FUNCTIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE FUTURE IS UNDERSTANDING. UNDERSTAND THAT THE YOUTH ARE NOT JUST CRIMINALS.

THERE ARE NOT MANY ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMS FOR THE YOUTH TO BE ENROLLED IN WHILE THEY ARE IN CARE. IF JEROME WERE ENROLLED IN A PROGRAM THAT WOULD CONNECT HIM WITH SOMEONE WHO WOULD TAKE TIME TO CONNECT WITH HIM ONE ON ONE TO DISSECT THE MAIN ISSUE AS TO WHY HE CHOSE THE ROUTE HE CHOSE, HE COULD VERY WELL BE LEAD ON TO A PATH WHERE HE COULD BE A PROVIDER FOR HIS FAMILY.

AS A YOUTH WRITING THIS ARTICLE, I UNDERSTAND THAT FOR SOME ADULTS IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONNECT WITH THE NEW GENERATION, BUT LIKE ANYTHING IN LIFE, IF YOU PUT AN HONEST EFFORT INTO IT, YOU WILL GET POSITIVE RESULTS OUT OF IT. ONCE WE CAN BEGIN TO RESPECT EACH OTHER IN OUR OWN COMMUNITIES WE CAN TAKE A STEP TO OPENING OUR MINDS TO CONVERSATIONS THAT CAN LIBERATE YOUTH THAT ARE CAUGHT UP IN THE SYSTEM AND GUIDE THEM ON THE PATH OF BEING THE BEST PERSON THEY CAN BE. THE CORRECT WAY.



I AM

I am a drop in water
I am a plant forgotten in the desert
I am more angry than hurt
I am a lost soul behind the shutter

I am the silence of long nights in the dark
I am a butterfly trying to shine in the sky
I am a mislaid bird in a parc
I am eating humble pie.

I am the child of the sun
I am a stranger, the unknown
I am a piece of material
I am the crown imperial.

I am a rising volcano
I am the hope of tomorrow
I am an old soldier
I am a social climber

I am a quiet angel.
I wonder what tomorrow holds
I am a dream which would never die
I feel the weight of my struggles on my shoulders

I say that we are all equal
I dream of going to university
I believe that one day I would
I am determined.

I am afraid sometimes
I cry, laugh, wonder.
I am here seeking for a chance
I am the revolution for a better place

I am Bella
Sister of Emma
I live with hope and prayers

-- Bella



RIGHT TO BE HEARD

BY TRINA

WE'RE NOT INVISIBLE.

HELLO, MY NAME IS TRINA. I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THE CITY OF SARNIA TO A SINGLE MOTHER BY THE NAME OF JULIE. MY MOTHER AND FATHER WERE NOT TOGETHER AS HE HAD ANOTHER FAMILY. SO THIS CONTRIBUTED TO THE ROUGH CHILDHOOD THAT I HAD.

WHEN I WAS 12 YEARS OLD, MY MOTHER MARRIED A MAN WHO STILL TO THIS DAY IS MY STEPFATHER. LIFE WITH HIM OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS HAS DEFINITELY BEEN TOUGH FOR ME. HE AND I DO NOT SEE EYE TO EYE AND FIGHTS ARE QUITE COMMON BETWEEN THE TWO OF US. DUE TO MULTIPLE REASONS ON HIS PART, HE IGNORED ME FOR FOUR YEARS, NOT SPEAKING TO ME, NOT EVEN LOOKING IN MY GENERAL DIRECTION, AND LEAVING THE ROOM WHEN I ENTERED IT AND THAT DEFINITELY TOOK IT'S TOLL ON ME. AFTER ALL THE YEARS OF ENDURING THIS, I WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR 16 DAYS AND AFTER THAT I ENTERED THE SARNIA GIRLS HOME. OF COURSE, THINGS GOT WORSE BEFORE THEY GO BETTER, BUT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO IMPROVE MYSELF DRASTICALLY EVER SINCE.

THE MAIN ISSUE I FIND WITH RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IS DIRECTLY RELATED WITH ARTICLE 12 SECTION 1 ON THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, WHICH STATES THAT, "STATE PARTIES SHALL ASSURE TO THE CHILD WHO IS CAPABLE OF FORMING HIS OR HER OWN VIEWS THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS THOSE

VIEWS FREELY IN ALL MATTERS AFFECTING THE CHILD, AND THE VIEWS OF THE CHILD BEING GIVEN DUE WEIGHT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGE AND MATURITY OF THE CHILD."

SO WHY IS THIS AN ISSUE?

WELL, AS I WITNESSED IN MY OWN HOME AND PART OF THE REASON WHY I AM CURRENTLY LIVING IN THE SARNIA COMMUNITY GIRLS HOME IS THAT CHILDREN'S VOICES ARE NOT BEING HEARD IN THE HOUSEHOLD. CHILDREN NEED TO BE VALUED FOR THE VIEWS THAT THEY HAVE AND THE OPINIONS THAT THEY HAVE FORMED. THEIR AGE GIVES THEM A MUCH NEEDED OBJECTIVE WAY OF VIEWING SITUATIONS. THOUGH THEIR AGE MAY LIMIT THEM FROM HAVING THE EXPERIENCES WHICH ADULTS HAVE, CHILDREN ARE ABLE TO VIEW THE WORLD IN A BLACK AND WHITE SORT OF WAY, AND YET THEIR VOICES ARE NOT BEING HEARD. THIS CAN LEAD CHILDREN TO FEEL AS THOUGH THEY ARE INVISIBLE. I FOR ONE KNOW HOW THIS FEELS. NOT ONLY WITH THE TREATMENT I WAS GIVEN BY MY STEPFATHER BUT DUE TO THE REASON THAT I FEEL LIKE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY IS NOT BEING HEARD.

IF CHILDREN FEEL AS THOUGH THEY ARE INVISIBLE, THEY MAY TAKE DRASTIC MEASURES TO BE SEEN, WHETHER THEY HURT THEMSELVES, SOMEONE ELSE OR GET IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW, THEY WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO NOT BE INVISIBLE.

SO WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT THIS?

I FEEL THAT IN ORDER TO HELP CHILDREN'S VOICES TO BE HEARD, WE NEED TO EDUCATE PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING TO WHAT CHILDREN HAVE TO SAY AND ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. I THINK WE SHOULD ALSO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN SUCH AS COMMUNITY HOMES AND ONE ON ONE PROGRAMS SUCH AS COUNSELING.

SO I CHALLENGE ANYONE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND EMPHASIZE IT'S IMPORTANCE. AND MAYBE IN TIME, WE CAN HELP THOSE WHO FEEL INVISIBLE TO HAVE A VOICE.



BY SUNDIN

RIGHTS WITHIN CHILD WELFARE

MY LUCKY TRANSITION

EARLY LIFE

I PERSONALLY CANNOT REMEMBER FAR BACK INTO MY LIFE UNFORTUNATELY. BUT I CAN SAY THAT I HAVE HAD A QUITE DIFFERENT CHILDHOOD THAN OTHERS. I HAVE BEEN IN AND OUT OF THE "SYSTEM" SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MY LIFE. FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD, I WAS IN A FEW HOMES IN THUNDER BAY AS AN INFANT. THE FIRST PLACEMENT THAT I CAN REMEMBER WAS A HOUSE LOCATED IN THE RURAL AREA OF THUNDER BAY. IT WAS A LOVING OLDER COUPLE WITH SEVERAL GROWN CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN. THEIR NAMES WERE JACK AND JANET. I LIVED THE MAJORITY OF MY CHILDHOOD THERE WITH MY BROTHER DARREN UNTIL ABOUT AGE 5. AT ABOUT THIS TIME I WAS VISITING MY MOTHER AND SHE KIDNAPPED ME TO WINNIPEG FOR SEVERAL MONTHS TO AN APARTMENT. HERE WAS WHERE I EXPERIENCED THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOLISM ON THE FAMILY AND LONG NIGHTS ALONE. ONE NIGHT I GOT UP AND WALKED TO THE NEXT APARTMENT TO US AND THAT IS HOW I WAS BROUGHT INTO THE CHILDREN AID SOCIETY IN WINNIPEG. I WAS THEN SENT BACK TO MY LAST PLACEMENT WITH JACK AND JANET UNTIL THE AGE OF 7 DUE TO BEHAVIOURAL ISSUES.

NEW LIFE

AT AGE 7, I WAS MOVED INTO A NEW PLACEMENT WITH HELEN AND FLOYD IN THUNDER BAY. I CONSIDERED THIS TO BE THE HARDEST TRANSITION OF MY LIFE BECAUSE I HAD NEW GUARDIANS, SETTING AND SCHOOL. EVEN WHEN I CHANGED SCHOOL I FOUND IT HARD TO MAKE FRIENDS BECAUSE OF A DISCONNECTION WITH THE REST OF THE OTHERS. I FELT DIFFERENT THAN THEM. IT WAS SOMETIMES AWKWARD TRYING TO EXPLAIN WHAT FOSTER CARE WAS AND HOW IT WORKED WITH THE VERY DIFFERENT RULES THAN REGULAR FAMILIES. ONE OF THE MAJOR RULES WAS INVOLVING SLEEP OVERS, THE HOUSE YOU WERE TO GO TO HAD TO HAVE A POLICE BACKGROUND CHECK AND APPROVAL FROM DILICO (CHILD AGENCY). SOME OTHER RULES AND REGULATIONS WERE RESTRICTING AT TIMES AND APPROVAL WAS SLOW AT BEST. ANOTHER PART OF MY LIFE I FOUND A STRUGGLE WAS SCHOOL. NOT THAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE MATERIAL, I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO BE THERE AND BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO AND HOW. I WAS FINALLY MOTIVATED TO GO TO SCHOOL BY THE IDEA THAT I CAN POSSIBLY MAKE SOMETHING OF MYSELF AND HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE. ALTHOUGH ALL THIS HAS HAPPENED I THINK I AM BETTER OFF THEN MOST OTHERS IN THE "SYSTEM." I ENDED UP WITH TWO FAMILIES THAT TOOK CARE OF ME AND TREATED ME AS THEIR OWN CHILD AND NOT AN OUTSIDER JUST OCCUPYING A SPACE AND NOT BEING BOUNCED AROUND AS MUCH. THIS IS WHAT I THINK THE KEY IS FOR OTHERS TO FULLY DEVELOP IN FOSTER CARE, THE FEATURE OF STABILITY.

NOW AT AGE 17, I WILL BE LEAVING CARE BUT NOT MY FOSTER FAMILY. UNLIKE MANY OTHERS. I WILL BE MOVING INTO OUR BASEMENT AND PURSUING POST – SECONDARY EDUCATION. MOST OTHERS DO NOT GET THIS CHANCE, THEY GET CUT OFF TOO FAST WITH VIRTUALLY NO SUPPORT OTHER THAN SOME FINANCIAL BOOSTS. THE REASON IS BECAUSE THE HOME OTHERS STAY IN ARE TEMPORARY PLACEMENTS AND NOT A COMPLETE FAMILY SETTING. THEY ARE NOT EXPECTED TO STAY AFTER 18. THIS IS WRONG IN MY OPINION. THOSE YOUNG ADULTS LEAVING CARE IS WHEN THEY NEED SUPPORT THE MOST, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND EMOTIONALLY. I WOULD WANT TO SEE THOSE WHO PURSUE A FORM OF POST – SECONDARY EDUCATION GO INTO WHAT I WOULD CALL A "TRANSITION PLACEMENT". THIS IS WHERE MULTIPLE PEOPLE LEAVING CARE WOULD LIVE TOGETHER WITH AN AUTHORITY FIGURE ROUTINELY CHECKING IN, LIKE THE EXTENDED CARE PLANS. THIS WOULD HELP THEM BECOME INDEPENDENT AND NOT WORRY ABOUT A PLACE TO STAY AND CAN DO THEIR EDUCATION IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND HAVE A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE. THIS IS WHAT IS NEEDED AND NOT NO SENSE OF DIRECTION AND ABUSIVE (DRUG, ALCOHOL AND PHYSICAL) CONDITIONS AFTER CARE.



BY ZAK

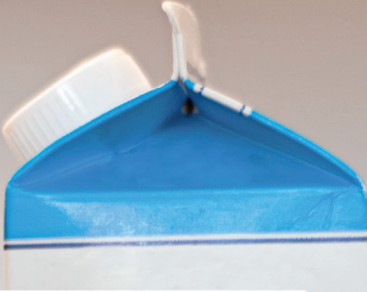
RIGHT TO
NON-
DISCRIMINATION

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO EVERYONE.

HELLO EVERYONE, MY NAME IS ZAK SMITH.

I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SPORTS FROM A VERY YOUNG AGE ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT SPORTS. I REALLY LIKE IT WHEN THE POLICE CATCH THE BAD GUY. PROBABLY SINCE THE AGE OF 5 IT WAS ALWAYS BEEN MY GOAL, MY DREAM TO BECOME A POLICE OFFICER. I KNOW THAT I HAVE THE RIGHT TO GOOD QUALITY OF EDUCATION, AND I KNOW THAT I ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE ENCOURAGED TO OBTAIN THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION POSSIBLE!

I THINK THAT ONE THING BOTHERS ME, IT IS WHEN I SAW MY PARENTS DIVORCED AND I LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCES IN THEIR LIFE STYLE. MY DAD LIVES IN A VERY LARGE HOME, HE HAS A THREE-CAR GARAGE, HE OWNS A



SNOW MOBILE, A DIRT BIKE, AND GETS TO TRAVEL WHEREVER HE WANTS ON VACATION. WHEREAS I LOOK AT MY MOM'S LIFE STYLE, SHE IS LIVING IN A TOWN HOUSE, THERE IS NO GARAGE, AND SHE DOESN'T GET TO TRAVEL AS MUCH AS MY DAD DOES. SHE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, AND THEN WENT TO COLLEGE, AND GOT HER DIPLOMA IN FIRE FIGHTING! HER GOAL WAS TO BE A FIRE FIGHTER! UNFORTUNATELY, SHE WAS NOT ABLE TO ACHIEVE HER GOAL BECAUSE SHE WAS TOLD THAT IT WAS NOT GOING TO BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE SHE WAS DEAF. MY MOM DID SOME RESEARCH AND FOUND OUT THAT THERE ARE 32 DEAF FIRE FIGHTERS WORKING IN THE UNITED STATES! AND YET, WE DO NOT HAVE THAT SAME OPPORTUNITY IN CANADA. WHEN I LOOK AT MY DAD'S OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT THERE ARE NO ISSUES FOR HIM. HE WORKS AS A SERGEANT IN THE POLICE SERVICES; HE DOES NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE ACCESSIBLTY ISSUES, THOSE ARE NOT THINGS HE HAS TO WORRY ABOUT.

AS I SAID, I WANTED ALWAYS TO BECOME A POLICE OFFICER. I AM WONDERING ABOUT THOSE LIMITATIONS THAT WILL BE PLACED ON ME. I WANT TO KNOW THAT I HAVE THAT SAME OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE MY DREAMS AS A POLICE OFFICER; I DO NOT WANT TO HAVE THOSE LIMITATIONS! I WANT TO SEE PEOPLE HAVE THAT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. I DO NOT WANT MY LIFE STYLE AND MY FRUSTRATIONS TO BE THE SAME AS MY MOM'S. SO THANK YOU FOR LISTENING AND HAVE A GREAT DAY!

A black and white photograph of a woman with dark hair pulled back, smiling broadly while sitting on a dark leather couch. She is wearing a ribbed turtleneck sweater and dark pants. Her hands are clasped in her lap. In the background, there is a large potted plant and a window showing a city skyline. A red, paint-splatter-like graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'BY PORTIA' and 'RIGHT TO SHELTER' in white.

BY PORTIA

**RIGHT TO
SHELTER**



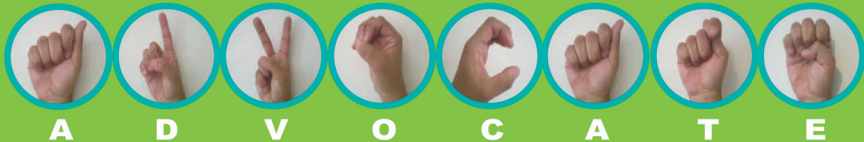
IT ALL STARTS WITH ME...

**UNDERSTANDING WHO I AM
THROUGH ADDING A WORTH OF SOMETHING THAT CAN NOT BE TAKEN FROM ME.
SHARING THE LITTLE HEART I HAVE IN THE COMPANY OF NEW FRIENDS
OPENING DOORS OF PEACE
I IMAGINE BEING IN A PLACE WHERE RIGHTS ARE CHERISHED.
IT STARTS WITH ME.**

**PREPARING PROGRESS WITH THOSE ON MY FRIENDS LIST
I CAN CONVEY A MESSAGE THAT CAN BE PASSED ON THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
TO SAVE A LIFE.
HOW HAPPY WILL I BE WHEN I BECOME A HEROINE?
USING THE TOOLS OF MY WORDS
SPEAKING THROUGH THE POWER OF MY RIGHTS
ONLY THEN CAN I GROW TO BELIEVE IN THEM
IT STARTS WITH ME.**

**IF ONLY I HAD KNOWN,
I WOULD HAVE SAVED A NIGHT OUT ON THE STREETS.
AFTER ALL, SHELTERS ARE FOR ME.
I WOULD HAVE LEFT THE ABUSE,
BEFORE THESE SCARS LEFT A MARK ON ME.
NOT KNOWING MY RIGHTS IS NOT AN OPTION ANYMORE.
SOMEONE'S GOT TO EDUCATE ME.
I AM A CHILD WHO HAS RIGHTS.
SO IT WILL DEFINITELY START WITH ME.**

Provincial Advocate *for Children & Youth*



If you need to talk with an advocate about school, residence, group home, or foster care or if you are unsure of your rights, we can help!

Contact the Advocate's Office by phone, email, webcam, video phone

TTY: 416-325-2648

PHONE: 416-325-5669

WEBCAM:  provincial-advocate (ASL/LSQ users)

EMAIL: advocacy@provincialadvocate.on.ca

WEBSITE: www.provincialadvocate.on.ca

Provincial Advocate
for Children & Youth

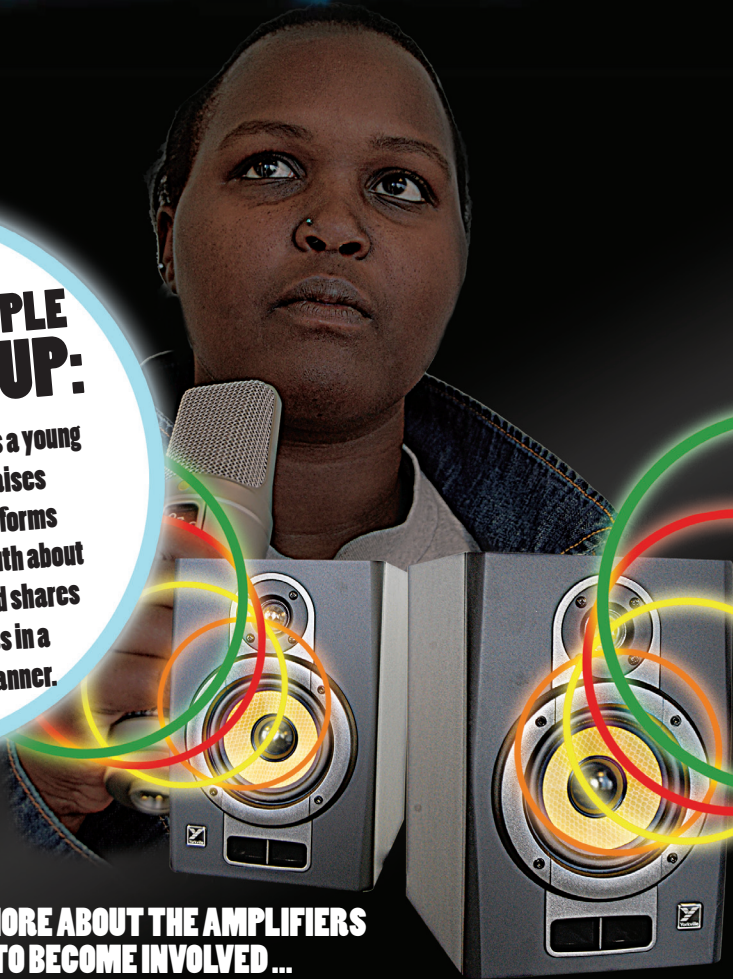
the Amplifiers

YOUNG PEOPLE SPEAK UP:

an **AMPLIFIER** is a young person who raises awareness, informs children and youth about their rights, and shares experiences in a creative manner.

**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE AMPLIFIERS
OR HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED ...**

WWW.PROVINCIALADVOCATE.ON.CA



... that was
delicious!

FOR INFORMATION,
CONTACT US AT:

TEL: 1-800-263-2841

TTY: (416) 325-2648

colloq: provincial-advocate (NSL/LSQ users)

EMAIL: advocacy@provincialadvocate.on.ca

www.provincialadvocate.on.ca

STAY TUNED...

AS WE WILL BE SERVING OUR FULL
MAGAZINE SHORTLY.

IF YOU ARE A YOUNG PERSON AND
WISH TO BE A PART OF THE NEXT
ISSUE, PLEASE LOG ONTO OUR
WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS:
WWW.PROVINCIALADVOCATE.ON.CA

Provincial Advocate
for Children & Youth