

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CYAA Review](#)  
**Cc:** [Stony Plain](#)  
**Subject:** review submission  
**Date:** Monday, September 12, 2016 11:23:09 AM

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September 12, 2016

To the Standing Committee,  
Cc MLA Ms. Babcock

Please review the CYAA to insist that parental rights are enshrined in the Act in the Preamble. It is imperative for the health of society that parents remain recognized as the primary authority in families. As the Act reads now, children are removed from the natural order of the family, thus giving Government the primary interest in children over the family and parental authority. A government can never be allowed this power – to see children outside of the family structure as a “greatest resource”. To do so is to pave the way for exploitation of children without the natural bonds and protection of unconditional love that the family provides. Children become, over time, a commodity to be manipulated according to the latest political or ideological whim. The family is the most certain structure to ensure the well-being of children, and thereby the well-being of society.

Obviously there exists in SOME families abdication of parental duties and incapacity to care for children. Yet even so, hope for the children must mean inclusion of parental autonomy and authority except in the most extreme of cases. To fail to do so means, concretely speaking, that once an agency takes children from the family for any reason, an Advocate, according to the Act, retains final authority to intervene. We see the fault of such a system multiple times in history. (Australia: Rabbit Fence, Residential Schools here, England’s removal of children at the will of the powerful agencies, etc.)

Please ensure that Parental Rights remain enshrined in the CYAA.

Sincerely,

For example:

- WHEREAS the Government of Alberta recognizes that children and youth are our greatest resource ...

should be: ... recognizes that biological families are our greatest resource.

- WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is committed to ensuring that the rights, interests and viewpoints of the most vulnerable children and youth in provincial government systems are considered in matters affecting those children and youth; and ...

should be:... the most vulnerable children and youth and their parents ...

- WHEREAS the Government of Alberta recognizes the importance of continual improvement in the provision of services to vulnerable children and youth ...

should read: ... children and youth and their parents

- Role and functions of Advocate

9(1) The role of the Advocate is to represent the rights, interests

and viewpoints of children.

Should read: ... and viewpoints of children and their parents

- (b) on the Advocate's own initiative, or at the request of a child, assist in appealing or reviewing a decision relating to a designated service;

should read: on the parent's initiative, in communication with the Advocate and child, assist in appealing....