

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CYAA Review](#)  
**Subject:** I could not submit responses  
**Date:** Thursday, September 15, 2016 3:32:24 PM

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I filled out the survey online. Thankfully, I copied and pasted my responses to a word document in order to preserve my first thoughts. I will be pasting my responses to the questions posed, into this email. Please read and consider each and every point. I would appreciate a response to my particular concerns.

Sincerely and respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Widewater, AB

[REDACTED]

I understand some of the rationale behind allowing "youth" who are receiving support and financial assistance to exist up to the age of 22, however, I feel that the extended age only lends to the current philosophies that an adult at the age of 22 is still a child. For millennia, people from many different cultures have entered adulthood anywhere from the age of 12 to 18. I also am aware of current neurological research has found that the prefrontal cortex of the human brain, the area of our brains which is responsible for executive and cognitive functions - impulse control, is not fully developed until our early twenties. Despite these findings, society has been producing fully functioning and responsible adults as early as twenty and younger. There seems to be a lack of acknowledgment on our government's behalf, of the important role that parents and guardians have in guiding young adults, aged 16-22 into their adult years. The current laws suggest that at the age of sixteen, teenagers are now autonomous adults, able to make their own decisions - but the confusion comes in when parents are still legally responsible for feeding, clothing, educating, and protecting them. The law allows teenagers in this age range to make their own decisions about sexuality, reproductive "rights", yet they do cannot vote, get a tattoo, drink alcohol, purchase cigarettes, etc. It sends a mixed message; they can do what they want, regardless of outcome, and still not be responsible for themselves. The majority of parents and guardians want to be active in the decisions and consequences of their teenagers' lives. Sadly, there are those youth that do not have such active role models, and it should be only at this time that governmental agencies step in.

Working with children, I can see how heartbreaking and helpless it can feel when a parent is not behaving in ways that I deem appropriate, loving, or supportive, but unless there is a direct threat to the child's safety, the prevailing fallen nature of humans is beyond our control. We ultimately do not have control over what others do, and our country still protects freedom of thought, opinion, speech, association, and religion so it would be impossible to legislate a particular morality.

My response is entirely dependent on which services the committee is considering adding to the Act. It is my opinion that the government is already stepping directly into individual and parental rights. Allow parents to parent, and when a child's safety and physical well-being are in danger, that should be when someone needs to step in. I fully support and understand that there is an urgent need for Child and Family Services, and applaud those that are working on the front lines. It is a thankless job that is, in my opinion, terribly underpaid. I am pleased that I have been hearing of changing philosophies within Canada that are putting in place better support for the worker who are directly affected by involvement with neglected and abused children.

In reading the current roles of the Advocate, it is difficult for me to determine if I would suggest any changes. Having not been directly involved in situations where an Advocate is required. It would be beneficial for survey responders to understand the direction in which the committee would like to go.

My hope is that the Alberta Government is not considering moving toward prevailing philosophies surrounding the rights of the child, as understood by the United Nations. The UN seems to be moving in a direction which is removing more and more parental rights, and allowing children and youth to be more autonomous. Adult autonomy is what is fully desired by parents who have, at the forefront, the best interest of their children at heart. Giving more "rights" to children does not empower them, it simply disempowers parents from providing a strong, guiding role in their lives.

I would love to live in a world where everyone lives respectfully and kindly toward one another, however I know that is an impossible, and expecting to eliminate evil, selfishness, and greed, is ultimately expecting fantasy to come true. We need to work within the confines which we are given, continuing to protect others' right to exist, and live, and think how they please.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CYAA Review](#)  
**Subject:** Re: I could not submit responses  
**Date:** Thursday, September 15, 2016 3:43:22 PM

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Upon further review and reading of the Hansard notes of the committee, it is more than disconcerting to see that any MLA would be apprehensive to invite input and comment from the public and not simply stakeholders. I respect the suggestions that the budget is tight, however, there are many ways to promote the survey free of charge. Another consideration would be to allocate the funds that are currently being used to advertise "Alberta's Climate Leadership" on YouTube, as I do not need to be told that it's "The right thing to do". I will decide for myself, and do not need my tax dollars being irresponsibly spent on the promotion of something that the majority of Albertan's do not support.

Thank you for taking the time to read my responses.

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