**Envisioning a Child & Youth Friendly Community for Guelph-Wellington**

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**The community consultation**

Approximately 50 individuals from Guelph and Wellington, including youth (13-18 years), participated in a world-café style consultation, that was based on UNICEF’s building blocks for a child-youth friendly community.

A variety of methods were used to facilitate discussion. This included drawing on a “graffiti wall”, mad-libs, and round-table discussions.

Each station was further separated into three sections to engage participants in discussions of “Children's Participation”, “Structure”, or “Rights and Advocacy”.

**Fast facts about the Council of Opportunities for Children:**

- Promotes the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Children’s Charter of Rights and works to transform the Charter from “paper to action.”
- Began the process of achieving recognition from UNICEF for being a Child and Youth-Friendly Community for the city of Guelph and the county of Wellington in 2010.
- The guiding vision for a Child and Youth Friendly Community was to develop a community where its youngest citizens could thrive.
- Provides leadership, support and connections within the community to build a child and youth friendly community.

**Working with community partners**

Over the past two years, Research Shop interns have worked with the Council of Opportunities for Children (COC) in obtaining recognition from UNICEF as a Child & Youth Friendly Community for Guelph-Wellington.

Alongside the COC working group, Research Shop interns developed and led a community consultation workshop to:

1) Identify current child-youth friendly aspects, what needs to be addressed, and what opportunities are available in Guelph-Wellington to continue in building a child and youth friendly community;
2) Promote the Guelph and Wellington Children’s Charter of Rights,
3) Generate awareness about the UNICEF Child and Youth Friendly Community initiative.

**Next steps with the Research Shop**

Share the report on the community consultation to city and county councils and to the broader community.

Complete the UNICEF application for recognition as a child and youth friendly community.

Work with UNICEF on making the child friendly recognition process relevant to developed nations.