

Sample Letter to the Editor

January 1, 2012

Dear Editor,

As a *parent/child care worker/child advocate, etc.*, one of my jobs is to look after the health of my children. I care deeply for the health and well being of all Canadian children and youth. Yet, as a compassionate and pragmatic Canadian, I wonder why our governments are doing so little to help.

The Canadian Paediatric Society's recent report *Are We Doing Enough?* deals with some key concerns affecting the health and well-being of Canadian children and youth. The topics addressed in the report are not meant to be exhaustive but are those in which governments could bring about some significant improvements in the lives of children and youth through legislation or funding. Areas covered in the report include: newborn hearing screening, an enhanced 18-month well-baby visit and child and youth mental health plans to name a few.

We have long known that protecting children's health and wellness improves their ability to contribute as adults. The CPS is concerned that too few improvements have been made since the third edition of this report was published in 2009. In fact, Canada's children and youth may be losing ground on the public policy front.

I strongly encourage all levels of government to consider the recommendations in the CPS report (available at www.cps.ca), and to take an active role in reviewing legislation with an eye to keeping young citizens, and the economy they live in, healthy.

Sincerely,

(name)

(address)