

THE JANUSZ KORCZAK AWARDS IN CHILD ADVOCACY

OCTOBER 18, 2022

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Master of Ceremony – Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

INTRODUCING DR. KORCZAK: *AND HIS FLAME BURNS ON*
Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth, BC Representative for Children and Youth

MINISTER MELANIE MARK

The Inaugural Recipient of the Janusz Korczak Medal 2016

PRESENTATION OF JANUSZ KORCZAK MEDAL

Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth, Dr. Christine Loock and Dr. Anton Grunfeld

MEDAL RECIPIENT ADRIENNE MONTANI

JANUSZ KORCZAK STATUETTE PRESENTATION

Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth, Ron Friesen and Jerry Nussbaum

STATUETTE RECIPIENT HON. LANDON PEARSON

ABOUT THE JANUSZ KORCZAK ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Jerry Nussbaum



ABOUT DR. JANUSZ KORCZAK

Janusz Korczak (1878–1942) was a pioneer in child advocacy and a worldwide symbol of commitment to the welfare of children and youth. He was a Polish-Jewish pediatrician, researcher, writer, broadcaster, advocate for children’s rights and officer in the army, but most of all, he was an educator and a moral authority whose influence reaches into the present day. The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) – a treaty that almost every country in the world has embraced – is informed and inspired by his theories.

During World War II, after spending many years working as an orphanage director in Warsaw, Korczak refused the freedom offered to him and stayed with his orphans when they were sent to the Treblinka extermination camp in 1942. Although he is best known for sacrificing his life to stay with his children, his impact reaches beyond this selfless heroism. Korczak’s writings imparted new ideas of respect for children as they are, and began a cultural shift that changed the attitudes of adults towards children.

Korczak considered children as partners, equal to adults as human beings. He insisted that there are no human rights without children’s rights. His ideas on the fundamental importance of child rights motivated Poland to present to the United Nations a proposal to approve the UNCRC.

“The role of an adult is not to impose others’ goals on a child, but to help children achieve their own goals.” – Janusz Korczak

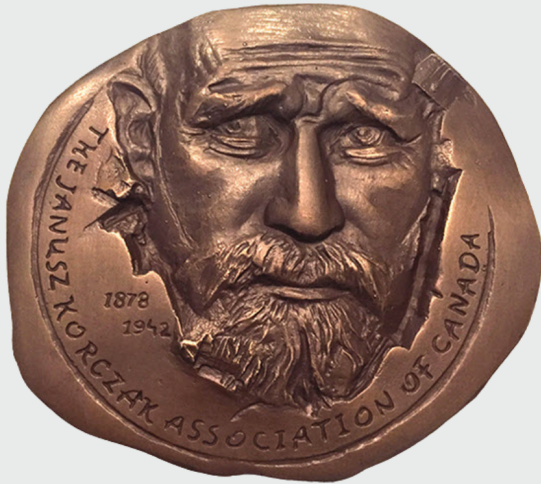


DR. JENNIFER CHARLESWORTH

Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth is British Columbia's Representative for Children and Youth, appointed in 2018. She has worked in the B.C. social and health care sectors since 1977, and her experience includes front-line child welfare, social policy, program management and executive roles within government and the non-profit sector, teaching child and youth care at the University of Victoria, and has served on numerous community board and provincial advisory committees.

She was engaged in formative work on deinstitutionalization, community inclusion for people with disabilities, women's and girls' health, mental health and youth services. Some of Dr. Charlesworth's non-profit work has included working with Indigenous organizations to co-create new ways to support Indigenous children, youth and families, as well as being immersed in developing the leadership, innovation and cultural awareness of the community-based social care sector.

Dr. Charlesworth lives in the traditional territories of the Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. She has a PhD in Child and Youth Care from the University of Victoria, and an MBA from Oxford Brookes University in Oxford, England. She is an award-winning teacher, author, activist and a parent of two vibrant young women who remind her daily of the power and promise of young people.



THE JANUSZ KORCZAK MEDAL

ADRIENNE MONTANI

Executive Director, First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society

is awarded

THE JANUSZ KORCZAK MEDAL

for working towards improving children's lives
in ways that encourage love for children,
listening to children, fostering healthy
children's lives, and building capacities in
children, in the spirit of Doctor Korczak



ADRIENNE MONTANI

Adrienne Montani is the Executive Director of the First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society, where she has worked for over 20 years. Prior to working with First Call, she served as the Child and Youth Advocate for the City of Vancouver, and as the chairperson of the Vancouver School Board for three of her six years as an elected school trustee. Some of her earlier leadership positions included serving as the executive director of Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society and of Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland.

Adrienne has a long-standing commitment to the issues of cross-cultural awareness and racism, women's and children's rights and the impacts of social exclusion on children and youth in low-income families. Her academic background is in Asian studies and adult education.

Adrienne's work for BC's children and youth has been acknowledged by a number of organizations: The British Columbia Medal of Good Citizenship, the Bill McFarland Award for the Excellence in the Advancement of Child Welfare from the Parent Support Services Society of BC, the Above and Beyond Award from the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks, the MOSAIC Human Rights Award, the United Way's Excellence in Action for Early Childhood Development Award and was also nominated for a YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the community-building category, and an Award of Excellence from the Federation of Community Social Services.



THE JANUSZ KORCZAK STATUETTE

HON. LANDON PEARSON, OC

is awarded

THE JANUSZ KORCZAK STATUETTE

for lifetime achievement in child advocacy and
for vision and leadership in promoting the
holistic approach to the wellbeing of children
in the spirit of Doctor Korczak



HON. LANDON PEARSON, OC

The Honourable Landon Pearson O.C. is a long-time advocate for the rights and well-being of children. From 1994 to 2005, Landon Pearson served in The Senate of Canada where she became known as the Children's Senator as well as the Senator for Children. In May 1996, Senator Pearson was named Advisor on Children's Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1998, she became the Personal Representative of the Prime Minister to the 2002 United Nations Special Session on Children. She then coordinated Canada's response to the Special Session entitled A Canada Fit for Children.

Prior to her appointment to the Senate of Canada in 1994, she had extensive experience as a volunteer with a number of local, national and international organizations concerned with children. As Vice-Chairperson of the Canadian Commission for the International Year of the Child (1979), she edited the Commission's report, *For Canada's Children: National Agenda for Action*. From 1984 to 1990, she served as President and then Chair of the Canadian Council on Children and Youth. She was a founding member and Chair of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children from 1989 until she was summoned to the Senate.

Landon Pearson has published several books, including *Children of Glasnost*, *Letters from Moscow*, and the publication *Tibacimowin* (memories of the near past). She has received many awards and honorary doctorates, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work on behalf of children, and was appointed to the Order of Canada as an Officer for her work supporting the rights of children and youth throughout Canada.

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CONGRATULATIONS

MEDAL RECIPIENT ADRIENNE MONTANI

STATUETTE RECIPIENT HON. LANDON PEARSON

 THE JANUSZ KORCZAK
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH