

To the leaders of the G7,

June 15, 2025

We are children from all across Canada writing this letter to ask that you think about us when you are meeting in Kananaskis, Alberta this week.

We ask that you think about the children in your life. This could be your own children, your grandchildren, or other children in your life; you could even think about the child you once were.

This week you'll be talking about really big and important things -the environment, peace, programs for children. All these things matter to children right now, and not only in the future. As Nelson Mandela once said, 'you can tell how good a place is by how it treats its kids.' Please remember your decisions not only affect adults – they affect children too.

We really want to be included in the plans you are making. Yes, we can learn so much from you, but you can also learn from us. Children have ideas and experiences that matter. When adults really listen and hear them, the choices they make are better for everyone because they understand children's lives more clearly. We see that you're trying to make changes to make our world a better place, and we thank you for that. But please make sure to include us.

When you talk to children, you'll hear that all of us have different experiences because we come from different places, look different from each other, and we have different abilities. Each of us has a story of our experiences and every story matters. When you listen to lots of stories, your decisions help more people. That's how real change happens.

We're able to write this letter to you with help from the Landon Pearson Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights. This Centre follows the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to make sure children learn about their rights and that those rights are respected in real life. One way the Centre does this is through events called Shaking the Movers where children from all over Canada meet to talk about their rights and what needs to change. This is what Senator Landon Pearson, the Children's Senator, always wanted; for children to be heard, and to be part of the decisions that adults make that shape their lives.

In our conversations at Shaking the Movers this past year, we talked about how to make sure our communities are caring places for all children. We discussed how we care about our friends,

we care about our education and our health care, and we care about the planet. We hope that you, the adult decision-makers, make a plan where every community supports these things.

Senator Pearson believed in children and offered them a way to speak up and be heard. We hope you help us continue her work. We may not have as much decision-making ability as adults yet, but our experiences and ideas matter. And we believe that if adults and children work together, the world will be better - not just for kids, but for everyone.

It is not every day that you as the leaders of the G7 countries come together to make decisions and take actions. We really hope that as you do, you think of children, listen to them, and include them. When adults act on what children have to say, we truly believe everyone benefits and the world will be a better place.

Thank you!

Youth Representatives of the Landon Pearson Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights

\*Shaking the Movers 2024-25 participant reports can be found here:

[www.carleton.ca/landonpearsoncentre/shakingthemovers](http://www.carleton.ca/landonpearsoncentre/shakingthemovers)