To the leaders of the G7,

We are writing this letter to you to ask that you think about children. While you read this letter, we ask that you think about the children in your life. This could be your own children, your grandchildren, other children in your life, you could even think about the child you once were.

When you get together this week, there are many important things you will talk about. Through these talks, you may not think about children. However, topics like peace, child programs, and the environment are important to children's lives now, and in the future. We really hope that you will think of children when making a plan for the future. As Nelson Mandela said, you can tell how good a place is by how it treats its kids. Please remember your decisions not only affect adults, but children too.

A way to make sure that you think about children with your plan, is to talk with us and listen to what we are saying. We can learn so much from you, but you can also learn from us if you take the time to listen. Show children you care about them. Children will continue to learn, but their thoughts in the here and now are still very important and we need to listen. By listening to children's ideas, the choices you make will be better because you will have a better understanding on children's lives.

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, it is important to talk to as many as you can. Children have different stories based on many different things like how they look, where they are from, and the different abilities they have. Children all have their own special stories that deserve to be heard. When children's stories are told, they can help make change in very important ways. In fact, when you include and listen to children, your decisions can make life better for everyone.

This letter is shared because of the support of the Landon Pearson Centre. This centre includes adults in different jobs who have the same goal; to improve children's rights. They follow the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in particular, Article 42; to make the UNCRC widely known and to make sure it is put into practice. Children do not want empty promises, but real change to help children live better lives and to show that their voices are heard.

One way this is done, is through Shaking the Movers events that take place all over Canada. These events allow children to learn about their rights and talk about whether their rights are taking place. This was what Senator Landon Pearson, the Children's Senator always wanted; for children to be a part of decisions with adults.

We want to continue what Senator Pearson made possible for children; the chance to talk with adults so that we can see changes in our world to improve the lives of all children. The world has a lot of big problems, which makes it even more important for adults to listen to children.

A clear example of this was talking about how we can make sure our communities care about one another. We want adult decision-makers to know that we care about our friends, we care about our education and our health care, and that we care about the planet. We hope that you, the adult decision-makers choose to make a plan for our world where everyone has a community with friends, with access to schools and hospitals, and to make sure that our environments are looked after.

Please take our leader, Landon Pearson as an example for how adults can make sure children's voices are heard. We truly feel that while we might not have as much decision-making ability as adults, we have important ideas to share and we feel that if you listened, our world could be better for not only children, but everyone!

It is not every day that you as the leaders of the G7 countries can come together. So when you do, it is important that you make decisions and take actions. We would really like you to make sure that you think of what we have shared here, so that your decisions include the voices of children.

If we come together and adults act on children's voices, we truly believe the world will be better for everyone.

Sincerely,

Youth Representatives for the Landon Pearson Centre
June 2025

Shaking the Movers 2024-25 participant reports can be found here:
www.carleton.ca/landonpearsoncentre/shakingthemovers