



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Summary record of the 2604th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 17 May 2022, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Otani

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Consideration of reports of States parties (*continued*)

Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Canada ([CRC/C/CAN/5-6](#); [CRC/C/CAN/Q/5-6](#) and [CRC/C/CAN/RQ/5-6](#))

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Canada joined the meeting.*
2. **Ms. Norton** (Canada), introducing the State party's combined fifth and sixth periodic reports ([CRC/C/CAN/5-6](#)), said that her Government had taken concrete action during the reporting period to improve the lives of children and to further advance their rights. Those measures included the creation of the Canada Child Benefit to provide support to low-income families, the establishment of an early learning and childcare framework across Canada, investments in education and other services for indigenous children, and measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. In Canada, the power to implement children's rights was constitutionally divided among federal, provincial and territorial governments. A cooperative approach was taken which allowed provincial and territorial governments to work with children and youth, members of civil society and indigenous representatives to find local solutions for the problems they faced.
4. The Government had consulted with children and other stakeholders before embarking on its dialogue with the Committee and would continue to do so as it addressed the Committee's recommendations and worked to improve the lives of all children in Canada.
5. **Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi** (Country Task Force) said that she would like to know whether the Government had made progress towards withdrawing its reservation to article 37 (c) of the Convention and whether it had considered ratifying the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.
6. According to the State party's replies to the list of issues ([CRC/C/CAN/RQ/5-6](#)), the country's federal framework did not allow for the adoption of national laws of the sort previously recommended by the Committee. However, in 2021 the Government had adopted national legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She would therefore like to know if any measures had been taken or were envisaged regarding the introduction of legislation at the national level that would embody the principles of the Convention and its optional protocols.
7. During the third cycle of its universal periodic review before the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Government had reiterated its commitment to improve its coordination of the implementation of international treaties, including the Convention. She would like to know to what extent that commitment had been acted upon. It was her understanding that the Interdepartmental Working Group on Children's Rights was the main body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention at the federal level. She would like more information about the mandate, resources and areas of authority of that body.
8. While she welcomed the strategies introduced by the Government for promoting children's rights, there was a conspicuous absence of a comprehensive national framework for the implementation of the Convention. She would like to know what measures had been taken to develop such a framework.
9. She would be interested to learn whether the Government had taken steps to introduce a nationwide system for the collection of disaggregated data which could then be used to inform action on the rights of the child. She was aware that the GlobalChild platform had been introduced in the Province of New Brunswick in 2021 to monitor the implementation of the Convention. Were there plans to introduce such a system in other provinces and territories? She also wondered whether the Government planned to step up its efforts to disseminate the Convention to children, their families and persons working with children. In addition, she wished to know whether the Government had considered or might consider appointing a federal commissioner to monitor the implementation of the rights of the child

and the recommendations of the Committee, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

10. She would like to know how the Government planned to reduce the level of child poverty in Canada and would be interested to learn how effective the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) budgeting mechanism had been in helping to reduce inequality and ensure the allocation of sufficient resources for addressing children's rights issues.

11. Finally, could the delegation please inform the Committee whether the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise was empowered to investigate the impact of private sector entities' actions on children's rights in Canada as well as abroad.

12. **Ms. Skelton** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) said that the Committee had been made aware of concerns about the large numbers of unregistered births in some areas. She would like to know whether that was a historic problem or the result of a failure to register new births and whether the Government had taken any steps to address the issue. She also wished to know whether the Government planned to develop a specific procedure for determining statelessness.

13. She would like to know whether people were making use of the new policy and procedure for allowing members of indigenous peoples to reclaim their indigenous names. Was that procedure available to persons throughout the country? Could the delegation indicate whether, under Bill S-3, both male and female grandparents could pass on eligibility for indigenous status to their grandchildren?

14. **Mr. Gudbrandsson** (Country Task Force) said that he wondered why the Government had not yet acted upon the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code, which permitted corporal punishment, and to develop a national public education strategy based on research regarding the impact of corporal punishment. Information about any measures taken in that connection would be appreciated.

15. He wished to know what action the Government had taken to respond to the concerns highlighted in the 2019 report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences regarding the failure of the social welfare system to protect indigenous children from violence.

16. National data on child abuse was apparently not collected on a regular basis, but research suggested that the extent of that problem varied considerably across different areas of the country. He would be interested to learn whether the Government had taken any measures, legal or otherwise, to address the root causes of child abuse, including discrimination, homelessness, poverty, forced migration and the intergenerational legacy of the Indian residential schools. He wished to know whether the Government had systematically identified the children in the State party most at risk of child abuse and developed prevention strategies. Did the Government have plans to strengthen the response of the child protection system nationwide and improve data collection on the prevalence of child abuse? He had been encouraged to learn of the establishment of child and youth advocacy centres for child victims of abuse and would like to know when all children would have access to such a centre in their local area. He wondered why children could not testify or be cross-examined in those centres, rather than in court. The experience of attending court was often deeply unsettling for child victims of abuse.

17. In the light of the fact that Canadian legislation allowed for surgery to be performed on intersex children, he would like to know whether steps had been taken to ensure that intersex children were not subject to unnecessary medical or surgical procedures. Information on any legal measures that had been taken to ensure that such children had the right to legal redress, including adequate compensation, would be appreciated.

18. He would welcome information about how Bill C-92, which gave indigenous peoples jurisdiction over relevant child and family services, was being implemented. He would like to know whether the Government had set any criteria for determining the best interests of the child in alternative care arrangements and whether decisions in that regard were based on assessments conducted by multidisciplinary teams. What steps were taken to take the views of the child into consideration in placement decisions, especially in the case of children under

the age of 12 years? He would like to invite the delegation to indicate how service delivery and gatekeeping were conducted in the different provinces; how a child's right to be placed outside the family only as a last resort was protected; how the Government protected the identity and maintained the cultural connections of children in alternative care; how placements in foster and residential care were monitored; and whether complaint mechanisms were in place throughout the country.

19. He would like to know how many persons in Canadian prisons were parents of children under the age of 18 years and to what services those children were entitled.

The meeting was suspended at 3.30 p.m. and resumed at 3.45 p.m.

20. **Ms. St. Aubin** (Canada), speaking via video link, said that the Interdepartmental Working Group on Children's Rights was mandated to serve as a forum for sharing information and best practices across all federal agencies on child-related laws, policies, programmes and initiatives. It did not have the authority to mandate federal departments to adopt new measures for the implementation of the Convention. In the light of the concerns expressed by civil society regarding the Working Group's effectiveness, the Government was exploring ways to strengthen its mandate.

21. **Ms. Geh** (Canada), speaking via video link, said that, although the amended Youth Criminal Justice Act provided that no person under 18 years of age could serve a prison sentence in an adult institution, minors might be held in an adult facility at the pretrial stage when no juvenile facility was available near their ordinary place of residence or when the safety of the alleged offender or others in the juvenile facility could not be guaranteed. The need to maintain the reservation to article 37 (c) of the Convention would be reassessed in the light of the consultations held with provincial and territorial governments over the past year.

22. In the Canadian federal system, different provisions of the Convention fell under different jurisdictions. Domestic implementation of the Convention could therefore not be achieved through a single national law or policy. Instead, implementation resulted from the combined effect of federal, provincial and territorial laws, policies, programmes and services. Federalism provided an opportunity for the federal, provincial and territorial governments to determine appropriate modes of implementation in line with the particular conditions within their jurisdictions.

23. Details on the issues surrounding the possible repeal of section 43 of the Criminal Code and on the measures taken to support parenting education were provided in paragraphs 68 and 69 of the combined periodic reports (CRC/C/CAN/5-6). Extending criminal liability to certain forms of parental conduct was a complex matter which raised differing and strongly held views across Canada. In 2004, the Supreme Court of Canada had found section 43 to be constitutional and had provided guidelines narrowing the scope for the use of such punishment to reasonable corrective force that was minor, transitory and trifling in nature; it had also confirmed the prohibition of corporal punishment at school.

24. The federal Victims Bill of Rights Act recognized the right of all victims to have their views considered, regardless of age. All witnesses under 18 years of age were entitled to testimonial aids. Those aids included allowing the witness to give testimony from behind a screen or via closed-circuit television and the assistance of support persons.

25. **Ms. Turner** (Canada), speaking via video link, said that child and youth advocacy centres in Saskatchewan were staffed by multidisciplinary teams of professionals and had been providing coordinated responses to child abuse for decades. A team of social workers, police officers and victim service providers worked to minimize system-induced trauma by providing all the various services in a single, child-friendly setting for children and youth victims and witnesses. All permanent court facilities had rooms equipped to meet the needs of child victims, who were assisted by victim services, witness coordinators and sometimes trauma dogs. Children normally gave testimony by video link.

26. **Mr. Dendooven** (Canada), speaking via video link, said that different aspects of the follow-up to the Committee's concluding observations fell into different jurisdictions, and none of the different levels of government could compel compliance in areas that did not fall within their jurisdiction. Three bodies – the Forum of Ministers of Human Rights, at the

federal level; the Senior Officials Committee for Human Rights, at the provincial level; and the Continuing Committee of Officials on Human Rights, at the territorial level – served as platforms for discussion and information-sharing on matters relating to the country's international human rights obligations. A stakeholder engagement strategy and a protocol for following up on recommendations had been developed to enable the implementation of targeted initiatives at all three levels of government. The federal government engaged with provincial and territorial entities to raise awareness of the Convention within public institutions and among the general public.

27. **Mr. Vaillancourt** (Canada), speaking via video link, said that most provinces and territories had established independent children's commissioners, advocates or ombudspersons whose recommendations provided valuable input for law- and policymaking. The creation of the Ministry of Families, Children and Social Development in 2015 had improved coordination on a range of children's issues. One of the members of the Advisory Council established in connection with the federal Poverty Reduction Strategy was tasked with ensuring that children's interests were mainstreamed across all poverty reduction programmes and services.

28. The implementation of laws, policies and programmes at the federal, provincial and territorial levels to further children's economic, social and cultural rights was well resourced. State support for low-income families with children had helped reduce child poverty rates from 16.3 per cent in 2015 to 4.7 per cent in 2020. Child benefits were forecast to account for more than 6 per cent of the State's total programme expenditures over the coming five years.

29. **Ms. Barr-Telford** (Canada), speaking via video link, said data collection had been improved in areas such as children's well-being and physical and mental health, ill-treatment, child poverty, transgender and non-binary Canadians, the health and well-being of Métis, Inuit and First Nations children living off reserve, and access to early learning opportunities and childcare. An updated census portrait of Canadian children and young people would become available later in 2022. The available information on youth in custody and under community supervision would be enriched by disaggregating the data by indigenous identity and racialized group. Data on crimes involving children and youth, including child sexual exploitation and online abuse, were available, and access to that information would be broadened. Existing data-collection standards were reviewed and improved on an ongoing basis; data relevance was ensured through continuous engagement with the different jurisdictions, indigenous partners and stakeholders. Statistics Canada planned to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the GlobalChild platform in the future.

30. **Mr. Marder** (Canada), speaking via video link, said that his Government remained open to considering the potential ratification of the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure and would continue to engage in a dialogue on that subject with all relevant federal, provincial and territorial entities, civil society, indigenous partners and other stakeholders. Given the country's federal structure, ratification of international instruments was a complex, resource-intensive undertaking, however.

31. The Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise had an international mandate; at the domestic level, responsible business conduct was supported through a variety of federal, provincial and territorial frameworks and policies.

32. **Ms. Costa** (Canada), speaking via video link, said that, in 2019, the Quebec government had established the Special Commission on the Rights of the Child and Youth Protection to examine youth protection services, relevant legislation and the role of courts, social services and other stakeholders. Following the submission of the Commission's report in 2021, work to implement the recommendations set out in the report had begun. A child protection commissioner had been appointed to monitor follow-up to the recommendations. The Youth Protection Act had been amended to establish the best interests of the child as a primary consideration in all decisions concerning children. The amended Act also delineated specific factors to be considered when determining the best interests of indigenous children, gave priority to cultural considerations when placing indigenous children in care and provided for culturally appropriate support for indigenous child witnesses and crime victims.

The establishment of a consultative committee composed of youth aged 14 to 21 years was also envisaged in order to obtain a youth perspective on the Commission's recommendations.

33. **Ms. Kapelus** (Canada), speaking via video link, said the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had called for action to ensure that indigenous children and youth could remain within their family or community. The 2019 federal Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families was a first step towards transferring jurisdiction over child welfare services to indigenous communities. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission had also called for the establishment of a national council for reconciliation to monitor and report on progress; the Government was currently engaging with indigenous partners and other stakeholders on legislation to formalize such a body. While the establishment of that council as an oversight body would be a major milestone in delivering on the calls for action contained in the final report of the Commission, full implementation would require time, investment, sustained partnerships and legislative changes.

34. Recommendations made in the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls had led to the launch of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan in 2021 to address the root causes of violence against indigenous women and girls. Details on the Action Plan were provided in paragraph 25 of the replies to the list of issues ([CRC/C/CAN/RQ/5-6](#)). Given the critical importance of accountability for victims' families and survivors, priority would be placed on the establishment of an independent oversight body to monitor progress and identify gaps in the implementation of the Plan.

35. **Ms. White** (Canada), speaking via video link, said that, in order to address the overrepresentation of indigenous children in the child and family services system, the Government was working with partners to reform the First Nations Child and Family Services Programme, moving to a flexible funding model, addressing discrimination and supporting families in staying together. The budget of the First Nations Child and Family Services Programme had been increased significantly; much of that funding had been used for preventive action and early intervention.

36. The federal Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families established principles and minimum standards relating to cultural continuity, substantive equality and the best interests of the child, which were applicable in all jurisdictions. The Act constituted a historic step towards a comprehensive reform of child and family welfare services and affirmed the right of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to exercise jurisdiction over those services in their communities. Thus far, 62 notices and requests for transfer of jurisdiction had been received; 19 coordination agreements were being discussed and 2 agreements had already been finalized.

37. As detailed in paragraph 65 of the combined periodic reports, Bill S-3 of 2017 had eliminated all sex-based inequities in the Indian Act. The Government continued to engage with indigenous organizations and advocates to address residual issues arising from earlier differential treatment, with the ultimate goal being to transition to a system where indigenous communities themselves controlled band membership and status.

38. Although the reclaiming of indigenous names and birth registration largely fell within the jurisdiction of provinces and territories, the federal government supported awareness-raising activities on the importance of birth registration at all levels. All federal identification documents could now be changed for persons wishing to reclaim their indigenous names, and efforts were being made to enact similar measures at the provincial and territorial levels.

39. **Ms. Turner** (Canada), speaking via video link, said that the Cowessess First Nation of Saskatchewan had been the first to conclude a coordination agreement under the federal Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families; that agreement would serve as a template for future ones. The provincial government continued to engage with indigenous communities and with the federal government to transfer jurisdiction over child and family welfare services to indigenous groups, thus promoting the availability of culturally appropriate, community-based support services.

40. **Mr. Dakalbab** (Canada), speaking via video link in order to respond to the question asked by Mr. Gudbrandsson regarding the situation of children of incarcerated persons, said

that provisions were in place for in-person visits, extended family visits, video-based visits and telephone calls in order to foster positive relationships between children and imprisoned parents. Private family visits took place away from the general visiting area. Residential mother-child programmes enabled children to live with their mother full-time up to the age of 5 years and part-time up to age 7 in order to ensure a stable, continuous mother-child relationship. The availability of residential and non-residential mother-child programmes was subject to institutional capacity, but most facilities were able to offer such arrangements to eligible women. Indigenous women were also allowed to have assistance from an elder or spiritual adviser.

41. **Mr. Linder** (Canada), speaking via video link, said that subsection 5 (5) of the Citizenship Act provided that citizenship could be granted to a stateless person who had been born outside Canada after April 2009 if the person had at least one parent who had been a Canadian citizen at the time of the birth, was under 23 years of age, had been physically present in Canada for three of the four years preceding the application, had always been stateless and had not been convicted of certain offences. Subsection 5 (4) of the Act gave the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship broad discretion to grant citizenship to any other person, and there were no plans to restrict that discretion. Citizenship could also be granted under the federal Immigration and Refugee Protection Act or on humanitarian grounds. True to its commitment to ending statelessness, the Government supported the global “I Am Here, I Belong” campaign of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

42. **Mr. Dendooven** (Canada) said that all Canadians, including children, had access to information about all human rights treaties to which his country was a party through the Government’s human rights portal. The Government also had a National Child Day website, which provided educators with child-friendly materials and information resources concerning the Convention.

43. In Newfoundland and Labrador, all newly hired social workers received training on children’s rights. Through a partnership with Memorial University of Newfoundland, the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate had provided information to social workers and students on the Office’s role in defending children’s rights at a seminar held in October 2021. In British Columbia, there were various learning opportunities for child welfare practitioners and front-line staff which covered such topics as professional ethics and practical aspects of child and youth rights. The provincial authorities published educational material on children’s rights tailored to different age groups. The Alberta Human Rights Commission organized workshops on children’s rights for human resource professionals, businesses and public sector organizations and published a range of materials designed to raise awareness of the foundational principles of child rights.

44. **Ms. Mackenzie** (Canada) said that the government of Nova Scotia compiled disaggregated data from various departments in order to ensure equal access to government services for all Nova Scotians, including children. The Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development collected data through student surveys and the mathematics and literacy assessments that were administered at grades 3, 6 and 9. Race-based data were gathered on a voluntary basis from students at all levels of compulsory schooling.

45. The province’s Department of Health and Wellness collected race-based data as a tool for eliminating inequities in access to health care and for combating racism as part of its health equity framework. The Department, in partnership with the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism Initiatives, had held 40 community consultation sessions on a race-based data collection tool for use in forming a more accurate picture of the province’s diverse population, which would have a say in how the data would be used. Race-based data would be collected on a voluntary basis starting in mid-2022. A project was being developed by the Department of Community Services to update and modernize race-based data categories and to enhance the Department’s data-collection policies, standards and training programmes.

46. **Ms. Geh** (Canada) said that the process known as Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) took into account a number of different facets of identity, including race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability and their interrelationship, in shaping government policy. That

process also contributed to the development of policies and programmes for meeting children's diverse needs.

47. **Ms. St. Aubin** (Canada) said that, with regard to the question about medical interventions in the case of intersex children, in the Government's response to the study of the Standing Committee on Health entitled "The Health of LGBTQIA2 Communities in Canada", it had noted that, while it understood that parents could consent to genital-normalizing surgeries on their child's behalf where such procedures were consistent with standard medical practice, it also recognized that stakeholders had expressed the view that such surgeries should be criminalized until the intersex person was mature enough to give consent and had done so. In its response the Government had also expressed its intention to engage all impacted parties to consider how best to address their concerns. Provinces and territories across the country had implemented measures to further ensure that intersex children in Canada were protected from harmful medical practices.

48. **Mr. Gudbrandsson** said that he failed to see how a Supreme Court decision from 2004 had a bearing on the issue of corporal punishment in 2022 and wished to know what other obstacles stood in the way of amending article 43 of the Criminal Code to prohibit such punishment. Corporal punishment was not a legal issue; it was a question of the rights of the child.

49. He wondered whether the State party had considered setting standards to ensure more effective access to justice for child abuse victims, given that protection measures for children who testified in court were not automatically applied.

50. **Ms. Skelton** said that she would be grateful for an explanation as to why the Government had filed for a judicial review of the 2020 Canadian Human Rights Tribunal order that required the Government to implement a broad definition of Jordan's Principle, according to which indigenous children must be granted access to government services on an equal footing with other children. Had the review taken place? She also wished to know how the Government ensured non-discrimination – a core principle of the Convention – in access to health care for children regardless of immigration status across all provinces and territories.

51. She would be interested to learn whether there had been a reduction in the suicide rate among adolescents over the previous decade and, if so, what measures had proved successful in reducing that rate. Did the Federal Framework for Suicide Prevention include any child-specific measures? She wished to know whether the impact of activities to combat suicide led by indigenous youth at the provincial level had been evaluated. It would be useful to know whether restrictions introduced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic had adversely affected the mental health of adolescents and, if so, what measures had been implemented to address the problem. She also wondered what action the Government had taken to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, among adolescents.

52. She was aware that the budget for the implementation of the National Housing Strategy had been increased and would like to learn more about the alignment of that strategy with the 2019 law establishing the right to housing. She also wished to know whether the strategy was targeted at children, especially indigenous children, and what the timeline was for ending child homelessness. She would be interested to hear the Government's response to concerns that the implementation of the Housing Strategy and the corresponding investments were geared more towards middle-income than low-income families. She would also like to know whether the principle of the best interests of the child was factored into eviction decisions.

53. She wondered whether the Government had achieved its goal of lifting all long-term drinking water advisories by March 2021 and what more sustainable solutions it had found to provide safe drinking water. Information on the measures adopted to ensure that child rights impact assessments were carried out and children's views were taken into consideration when dealing with issues related to climate change would be appreciated. Did children have access to judicial remedies for addressing environmental harm?

54. She would like to know whether the Government had taken or intended to take any action to repatriate Canadian children detained at camps in northern Syria. Information about any efforts to improve the living conditions of such children would be helpful. She wished

to understand why Canada had not ratified the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, especially given that it would entail no reporting obligations and little additional expense.

55. **Ms. Marshall-Harris** (Country Task Force) said that she would appreciate a response to her concerns that fee-paying schools created a barrier between high- and low-income families, which in turn placed indigenous children and children of African descent at a disadvantage. She wished to know whether there were any plans to enhance training for teachers who worked with children with special needs or indigenous children. Did school curricula cover indigenous knowledge and were indigenous teaching methods used in the classroom? She wondered whether further instruction on human rights and the Convention, in particular, could be incorporated into the mainstream curriculum. She would be interested to learn what had been done to expand the sanctuary schools programme in order to ensure that children of migrants had full access to education and whether reparations had been provided to the survivors of the Indian residential school system and to the victims' families. She would welcome information on efforts to improve recreational and leisure facilities for children and to raise awareness of the fact that a lack of outdoor recreation could hinder the development of children's social skills.

56. She wondered whether the Government might consider reviewing its Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States of America, under which asylum seekers arriving from the United States were ineligible for refugee status in Canada. She wished to know what alternative solutions existed to the placement of migrant parents with children in detention centres and whether the Government would reconsider the rule that allowed one parent to leave the centre with the child while the other parent remained, since it resulted in family separation. Were migrant detention centres – which were reportedly akin to medium-security prisons – subject to independent monitoring? She would be interested to hear whether there was any oversight of the treatment of children held in those detention centres and whether there was any mechanism for reporting unacceptable conditions in such centres. An indication as to whether the Government intended to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and allow inspections of places of detention by an international body would be appreciated.

57. She wished to know what measures were in place to protect children over 12 years of age from exploitation in the labour market and what steps had been taken to ensure that homeless youths had access to social services and were protected from sexual exploitation. She would be interested to learn whether the Government planned to re-examine the relevant legal provisions with a view to reducing the length and use of pretrial detention, especially in the case of minors, and what steps were taken to prepare them for reintegration into society.

58. She wondered whether the Government still used Gladue reports for indigenous children and whether the reports were used in the adjudication of cases involving such children. She also wished to know whether there had been any additional follow-up to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

59. **Mr. Gudbrandsson** said that he would appreciate details on efforts to remove the systematic social and institutional barriers to education faced by children with disabilities and on the measures taken to upgrade the collection of data on such children. He would be interested to hear what steps had been taken to foster an inclusive school environment, discourage children from dropping out of school and coordinate those efforts across the country's provinces and territories. Lastly, he would appreciate hearing about the efforts made to remedy the shortcomings in support services for children with disabilities and their families that had been identified in the 2019 report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on her visit to Canada.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.