

NEWS BRIEF

Welcome to another edition of our informal newsletter, *IBCR NEWS BRIEF*, which is published on an occasional basis to share with you some of the happenings and developments at the IBCR.

These newsletters aim to bring you up to date on our successes, projects, introduce you to some of our collaborators and summarize for you our more important meetings.

We hope that you will once again enjoy this relaxed and easy-to-read bulletin that gives you an open window into the everyday world of the IBCR.

Our Board of Directors Gets Bigger and Better!



The IBCR is proud to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors. **Benoit Van Keirsblick** and **Georges Stamatis** are both experienced children's rights advocates, whose talent and skills will undoubtedly contribute to the IBCR's international influence and reputation.



Benoit comes directly from Belgium, where his significant experience in children's rights has garnered him respect within advocacy circles and firmly rooted his reputation as an effective and committed children's activist. He has been the Director of the Belgian organization *Children Law Service* over 20 years, where he examines issues facing young people, such as social exclusion, and tries to create a legal framework to deal with the situation at hand. He is also the President of the Belgian branch of the international NGO *Defence for Children International*, where he is helping to develop methods to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Belgium. In addition to all these activities, he is also the Editor of the Belgian version of *The Journal of Children's Law*.

Georges is a political science student who is strongly committed to promoting the rights of the child. He brings an interesting addition to the Board of Directors as a *Canadian Youth Ambassador* to the United Nations in 1999 and as a member of the *Global Youth Action Network*, which allowed him to join an international network of young child rights defenders. Alongside his commitments, George has also received numerous honours, the most prestigious of these being the *Mention of Honour of the Town of Montreal*, awarded to him in 2006 for his swift and effective actions in the wake of the tragedy at Dawson College. Following the deadly shooting at the college, he coordinated an emergency centre to help students. He is now joining our Board of Directors in the position of Vice-President in charge of fundraising in North America.

The IBCR is looking forward to collaborating with these two great personalities, whose unflagging commitment to improving the lives of children makes them ideal additions to our Board!

Welcome on Board to the both of you!

Sophie PIHAN
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