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The image featured on the cover of this report is taken from a painting from artist Marie Denise Douyon, used by permission of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse of Quebec.
Dear friends of the International Bureau for Children’s Rights,

With nuances of the appropriate size when it comes to human rights, it is not forbidden to say that a successful year has come to an end for children’s rights.

At the international level, the Committee on the Rights of the Child has initiated a process of consultation and preparation for the adoption of a third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child which would enable children to seize their rights personally. This Protocol would fill a gap and reinforce Article 12 of the Convention, which states that all children have the right to express their views on all matters affecting them and to participate in the defence of their rights. In general, this Protocol will strengthen the mechanisms which permit children to compel government officials to enforce their rights. As a defender of children’s rights, the IBCR welcomes this initiative for which it has advocated.

Twenty-one years after the Convention came into force, children’s rights are still routinely violated in certain countries. Being engaged in the field, the IBCR was a privileged witness of political events in the Middle East and North Africa. Despite these upheavals, the IBCR was able to continue the work it was already carrying out on the implementation of children’s rights with its national partners in Morocco, Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. While bringing a new hope for democracy, in certain countries this reconfiguration of the political sphere also represents a real threat to the rights of the child...

This year we are particularly proud to have been present in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and North Africa. The practical and diverse expertise that the IBCR team has developed in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child over the past fifteen years is now proving more and more valuable. Regarding this, we would like to particularly acknowledge our investment in the training of police officers in recognizing children’s rights. In fact, we were able to strengthen our collaborative projects with the UNICEF offices and police and gendarmerie academies in West and Central Africa in order to work together with them to update the training for police forces on their mandate concerning children.

More than ever our main objective is to popularize the Convention on the Rights of the Child as much as possible and to permanently integrate these rights into the practice of professionals, as well as into government policy. As both the president of the Board of Directors of the IBCR and a professional working in child justice, I can attest to the genuine concern of the IBCR staff in achieving this ambitious goal while also obtaining real returns on the funding that the IBCR is awarded each year by development agencies and private donors.

Through what I have seen, I want to congratulate the management of the IBCR and its staff, as year after year they have succeeded in convincing public agencies and private donors of the quality of the approach that the IBCR has developed to assist children. In the same way, the state leaders in the areas where we are interceding recognize the expertise offered by the IBCR. Proof of this is the number and diversity of contracts that the IBCR signs. Through the IBCR, a modest but very real process towards respecting children’s rights is underway, as this past year confirms.

Now, more than ever, it is our responsibility to not only know but to also make known that which we are undertaking in order to intensify this process for the benefit of children.

I would like to thank all those who honoured us with their material or moral support. I invite them to remain such indispensable pillars, no matter the size of the stone brought to the building. By reporting once again on its annual work, the IBCR wishes to convince its supporters of the correctness of their choice, to invite them to persist in their support and, in turn, to encourage them to convince those of goodwill around them to bring their stone, however modest.

Paris, August 2011
After celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2009, the entire team of the International Bureau for Children’s Rights has worked diligently to set out concrete actions on several key continents: this year we were present in Latin America, in the Middle East, in North Africa, in and Central and Western Africa. Our technical expertise on issues related to children’s rights was recognized by important partners such as the UNICEF office in New York, Save the Children and our partners from the Canadian Government. We are also very proud to have been awarded a five-year contract by the Canadian International Development Agency to train its employees on children’s rights.

In addition, we completed the first study on the implementation of Guidelines for Child Victims and Witnesses of Crimes in Quebec, thanks to the support of the Canadian Department of Justice. Although real progress has been made in this domain, much remains to be done. However, we are confident in our capacity to develop concrete and effective actions that will contribute to an improved sense of well-being for those children.

Published last year, the Guide to International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law has had so much success that we have been asked to provide training on this technical subject by coalitions of non-governmental organisations working to promote the protection of children’s rights in armed conflict in Africa and Latin America.

We also can be proud of our close collaboration with more than ten police academies in Western and Central Africa. Our primary mandate consists of integrating practical training on child’s rights into the existing training curricula. For this, I would like to sincerely thank La Direction de la Coopération international (DCI) du Ministère de l’Intérieur from France for their very generous support!

Throughout the year, we have effectively used various media to defend and promote children’s rights. As part of the International Day of Children’s Rights, November 20th 2010, the IBCR attracted international media attention with its campaign against sexual tourism, which was launched in collaboration with Montréal-Trudeau Airports, Plan Canada, OneChild, Air Canada and law enforcement agencies. Sincere thanks and recognition go to Agence BCP who generously provided their expertise in designing a visually compelling, informative and dissuasive campaign.

The present report describes the activities and accomplishments of the IBCR from April 1st 2010 to March 31st 2011. Furthermore, readers will find additional details on the IBCR’s mission and objectives, as well as personal accounts of contributions from several members of its team, whether staff, interns, or members of the Board of Directors. The reader will also find a financial summary for fiscal year 2010-2011.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the members of our Board of Directors for their support and ever-informative advice, our financial partners for their confidence in our activities, and particularly the religious communities of Quebec and Canada for their unwavering support. The IBCR would also like to thank the Canadian and Swedish governments for their support of our projects. Last but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to the Bureau’s team for its professionalism and quality of work, particularly the dozens of interns and volunteers who generously contributed their knowledge, expertise and time to the Bureau and the cause it defends.

Montreal, July 2011

Nadja Pollaert
Director General of the International Bureau for Children’s Rights
Board of directors
2010-2011

Honorable Judge Jean-Pierre Rosenczveig
President

Mrs Moushira Khattab
Vice-president-United Nations Liaison

Sister Sheila Sullivan
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Mr Benoît Van Keirsblick
Administrator

Honorable Juge Anne-Marie Trahan
Administrator

Mr Jean-Baptiste Zoungrana
Administrator

Team
2010-2011

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Director General

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Deputy Programme Director – Children and Justice

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Programme Manager – MENA Project

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Programme Manager – Child Sex Tourism

Najla Khoury
Administrative Assistant – MENA Project

Hilaria Reyes
Administrative Assistant
Consultants and other collaborators


We wish to express our most sincere gratitude to the team at Agence BCP. A special thank you to Mr. Laurent Nadeau (Brand Director) and Mrs. Deborah Fortin (Project Manager, Customer Service Department) who developed the entire campaign against sexual tourism on a voluntary basis. Thanks to Astral Media Agency and more particularly toMrs Geneviève Paquette who provided advertising space for our campaign.

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Mission and Objectives

Founded in 1994, the International Bureau for Children’s Rights (“the IBCR”) is an international nongovernmental organisation headquartered in Montreal (Canada). The IBCR has benefitted from special advisory status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) since 2005.

Soon after the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the government of Canada in 1991, the two founders of the IBCR, the Honourable Judge Andrée Ruffo and Dr. Bernard Kouchner, consulted dozens of international organisations to help them determine the IBCR’s priorities. Two major concerns took shape: sexual exploitation of children and children and armed conflict.

Today, IBCR is still active in these areas. And despite having added various areas of activity, the IBCR’s primary mission is still to promote and protect the rights of the child in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols.

IBCR still exists because...

…the conflicts of the last decade have killed over 2 million children and have left 6 million children with disabilities (UNESCO Report 2011, The Hidden Crisis: Armed Conflict and Education). Throughout the world, over one billion children under eighteen live in countries or territories affected by armed conflict – this is almost one sixth of the world’s population. Of this, nearly 300 million are less than five years old. To date, approximately 300,000 girls and boys have been recruited or are used as soldiers in government armies or armed groups, and are placed at the front lines of at least 21 conflicts. UNICEF estimates that 20 million children had to flee their home, becoming refugees or displaced persons in their own countries (UNICEF, 2010). For the basic rights of these children to be respected, the IBCR carries out its Programme for Children in Armed Conflict.

…millions of children suffer significant harm associated with the consequences of crime and the abuse of power. To ensure that these vulnerable children receive special protection, the IBCR established its Programme for Children Victims and Witnesses of Crime.

…the rights of the child are indivisible and the recommendations from the monitoring systems of the United Nations on the rights and protection of the child require follow-up mechanisms. To promote national and regional challenges with commendable and innovative practices, the IBCR set up the Programme on Country Profiles on the State of the Implementation of the Convention.

Our philosophy is based on the conviction that the implementation of the rights of the child requires a dialogue between all the actors likely to bring about change in favour of children: in particular, governments, international and regional institutions and organisations as well as children themselves.
Action through 4 programmes:

- Promotion and dissemination of the Convention through country profiles
- Understanding of sexual exploitation of children through child sex tourism and child trafficking
- Children affected by armed conflict
- Children and justice, including children victims and witnesses of crime

How?

The action of the Bureau is the result of a synergy between:

Our areas of expertise:

- Development of models and tools to monitor the implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* in various countries.
- Creation of coalitions and networks with governments and civil organisations on strategic questions
- Dissemination of legal and analytical expertise on the rights of the child recognised by various international, national and regional organisations and partners
- Participation, as active member of international working groups
- Production of methodologically rigorous research on the rights of the child
- Development of a multidisciplinary and committed team
- Provision of technical support on the rights of the child

A testimonial from...

Cheryl Perera
Founder and President of Onechild

“The IBCR is embodying the spirit of the UN CRC, by raising the profile of the world’s most vulnerable children and forming powerful alliances and galvanizing support from multi-sectoral partners towards a common cause: to promote and safeguard their rights. The young people of OneChild are honoured to be working in solidarity with such an organisation that is setting the gold standard in international child rights advocacy in Canada.”
2010-2011 Highlights...

12-19 April 2010, the Director General and the Programme Director participated in the 12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Salvador (Brazil). The Director General chaired a workshop on the implementation of the Guidelines together with Anne Grandjean, who is responsible for UNICEF New York’s children and justice file, and Steven Malby and Mia Spolander from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna (Austria).

29 April 2010, the Director General was invited to give the opening speech at a conference entitled, How to Think about the Link between Accountability in Education and Children’s Rights? This talk was given at a symposium organised by the Research Group on the Education of Ethics in Education (GRÉÉ), which took place during the Faculty of the Humanities Month and the 40th anniversary of the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM).

May 14 and June 1, 2010, the Programme Director of the IBCR gave two courses on children in armed conflict during the United Nations seminars on peace keeping missions, organised by the United Nations Institute for Training Research (UNITAR) and the University of Québec in Montreal (UQAM), (Montréal, Canada).

2 June 2010, the IBCR was invited by the Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology to give its opinion on Bill C-268 in Ottawa, Canada. This act to amend the Criminal Code has established a minimum sentence of five years for offences involving the trafficking of persons under the age of eighteen years.

7 July 2010, as coordinator of the Canadian Forum on Children in Armed Conflict, the IBCR organised a workshop that examined the situation of children in Haiti. Specific recommendations on how to take children’s rights into account in the strategies and projects for the country’s reconstruction emanated from this workshop. Among the participants were members of the Canadian government and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) that work on the ground in Haiti. The workshop, held in Ottawa, Canada, and hosted by DFAIT, was made possible through the collaboration of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and other government ministries, as well as Haitian representatives.

June 22 to July 2 2010, the IBCR travelled to Lebanon and the West Bank for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Project, which is being carried out in collaboration with Save the Children Sweden. The IBCR provided training to our new partners on country profile research methodologies and on the regional analysis on school violence being carried out in Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen. These workshops allowed the IBCR to transfer knowledge and expertise on research methodology and implementation analysis for the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child with Iraqi, Jordanian and Palestinian civil society organisations.

In 2010, the Bureau received a letter from Ambassador Louis C. deBaca, Director of the U.S State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, granting the IBCR financing for the project “Prevention of child trafficking and protection of child victims in the Republic of the Congo: training of police forces and social workers.” An agreement was reached between the IBCR and the U.S State Department for the implementation of a two year project, from October 2010 to October 2012.

13 September to 3 October 2010, The IBCR organised further training for civil society organisations including Mizan (Jordan), Bayti (Morocco), and the Iraqi Child’s Rights Network – a coalition composed of 74 Iraqi NGOs, the objective of which was to produce country profiles. (Irak)

11 September 2010, the Programme Director gave a presentation on the United Nations system and the role of humanitarian workers at an international conference on public health organised by Mc Gill University.

24 September 2010, the Bureau held its second forum on child sex tourism, in collaboration with OneChild and Plan Canada in Toronto. The forum was hosted by Air Canada.
30 September 2010, the International Bureau for Children’s Rights and the Hans and Tamar Oppenheimer Chair on International Public Law at McGill University jointly organised a conference on the role of international law regarding children and armed conflicts. The Bureau concluded the event with a reception to celebrate the launching of the new edition of the guide “Children and Armed Conflicts: A Guide to International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.”

Since October 2010, the Bureau has organised several training sessions on children and armed conflicts. The Bureau has provided training to national coalitions and non-governmental organisations in Ivory Coast, Guinea and Senegal in collaboration with Save the Children Sweden. The IBCR insisted on the involvement of civil society in monitoring and communicating the information on the worst forms of violation of children’s rights to the Security Council, in particular.

23 October 2010, the Bureau was invited by the Office of the Ombudsman (New Brunswick, Canada) for the International Symposium on Children’s Rights and the Institutional Mechanisms Necessary to their Implementation. The Director General led a round-table discussion on institutions’ seizure mechanisms and their accessibility in preparation for drafting the third protocol to the CRC.

October 2010-March 2011, the Bureau provided training to legal aid lawyers defending child victims of trafficking, in collaboration with the Peruvian organisation CHS Alternativo, the Peruvian Ministry of justice and the Catholic Pontifical University in Peru. The goal of the project was to improve judicial proceedings, relief and protection of victims of human trafficking in Peru. The project, financed by the Canadian Ministry of Foreign affairs and International Trade, was a success. The IBCR trained 115 participants and developed an awareness-raising campaign on legal aid for victims and the judicial consequences of human trafficking, through radio clips, booklets and leaflets distributed throughout Lima’s impoverished areas. The project led to the publication of a manual for legal aid lawyers working with victims of human trafficking (especially for victims under 18 years of age)

20 October-3 November 2010, the Bureau visited its partners on the Middle East and North Africa Project (MENA): the Lebanese Association for Education and Training (ALEF Lebanon), Naba’a Lebanon, Bayti in Morocco and Soul for Development (Yemen), to support the advances being made in research on violence against children at school.

10-11 November 2010, the Director General was invited to an International Conference organised by Defence for Children-International at Bethlehem to deliver a speech on children victims and witnesses of criminal acts in judicial proceedings.

12 November 2010, NFB launched “Grace, Milly, Lucy…Child Soldiers”, a documentary by Raymonde Provencher, in Canada. The event was supported by the IBCR, who also participated in the distribution of the documentary.

In November 2010, the Director General and the Deputy Programme Director went to Brazzaville and Point-Noire, in the Republic of the Congo, in order to launch the project “Prevention of Trafficking and Protection of Child Victims in the Republic of the Congo; Training of Police Forces and Social Workers.” They met the partners and actors involved in the project, including the National Superior School of Police, the National Gendarmerie School, UNICEF, the Ministry of Domestic Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs. The Bureau recruited two local consultants: one in Brazzaville and another in Pointe-Noire. Mr Emmanuel Bayeni, consultant in Brazzaville, was named representative of the Bureau for the implementation of the project.

18 November 2010, the Director General delivered a speech at the Conference on Child Trafficking held by the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, in collaboration with Mrs. Susan Bissell, Director of UNICEF child protection programme in New York (headquarters).
20 November 2010, on International Day of Children’s Rights, the Bureau launched the first Canadian campaign against the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. The event took place at the Montreal-Pierre Elliot Trudeau International Airport, in collaboration with Air Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, the Montreal Police Services and la Sûreté du Québec.

27 November-3 December 2010, the Bureau organised a workshop with its partners in Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen to conduct a baseline study on violence against children in schools. A report was issued during the workshop, which included preliminary analysis and recommendations for the research.

13-15 December 2010, the International Bureau for Children’s Rights organised a workshop on juvenile justice at Cotonou (Benin), in collaboration with FRANCOPOL. The event was supported by the International Organisation of the Francophonie and brought together Directors and representatives of Police Academies and Gendarmerie from West and Central Africa. Its aim was to launch a regional strategy on cooperation and capacity building for police with regards to children’s rights.

December 2010, the Bureau was selected by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to provide training on children’s rights to CIDA officials for the next five years.

December 2010-March 2011, posters from the campaign against child sex tourism were strategically displayed within the international departures areas of the Montreal-Trudeau and Jean Lesage International Airports.

In January 2011, the IBCR Deputy Programme Director was invited as a key presenter to the European conference on CURE (Children in the Union – Rights and Empowerment), held in Stockholm, Sweden. The theme of this conference was children victims and witnesses of crime in the judicial process. As such, it attracted many professionals working with children, including lawyers, psychologists, representatives of the police, NGOs and victim assistance services.

In January 2011, the National Office for Victims of the Federal Ministry of Justice granted financing for a multidisciplinary research project on child victims and witnesses in Quebec, which is to be led by the IBCR.

12-15 January 2011, a team from the IBCR went to Amman, Jordan to take part in a strategic meeting for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) project, organised by Save the Children Sweden. As a result of the participation of the leaders of each organization, a strategy for implementing year three of the project was agreed upon.

8 -22 January 2011, the Bureau continued to deliver training on children’s rights to organisations in the West Bank and Iraq.

12 and 13 February 2011, during the International Day to highlight the plight of children in armed conflict, the IBCR was invited by the National Film Board of Canada to chair discussions in Montreal and Toronto on Raymonde Provencher’s movie Grace, Milly, Lucy... Child Soldiers (produced by Macumba, in coproduction with NFB). In the months that followed, the IBCR chaired the film viewing at several events.

In March 2011, the IBCR participated in a knowledge exchange on Child Advocacy Centres, which was organised by the Ministry of Justice of Canada. Researchers, academics, decision makers and other practitioners who work with child victims attended this event.

In March 2011, Air Canada featured the poster of our child sex tourism prevention campaign in the March 2011 issue of their on-flight magazine, En route, which has a monthly readership of approximately 1 030 000 travellers.

In March 2011, six country profiles (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian territories and Yemen) and a regional analysis on violence against children in school (Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen) were completed and are currently in translation and preparation for publication.
The IBCR and you…

Without them, the Bureau would not be what it is. Here are the testimonies of some of the individuals essential to the Bureau’s success…

**Sister Sheila Sullivan**  
*Congrégation Notre-Dame, Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors*

“I am very pleased and proud to be associated with IBCR in my capacity as Treasurer of the Board. Since 2004, I have witnessed the continued growth and development of IBCR, as it increasingly takes its place on the local and international stage. Given the few people who form the full time team and the on-going need to secure financial backing for projects, this is no small feat. Dedicated and passionate about children and their rights, the team attracts numerous interns each year who bring their expertise and enthusiasm to the tasks at hand and to implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child. If IBCR partnered with Air Canada in a campaign against sexual tourism this past year and is presently working with other NGO’s, Governments, and police forces around the world to raise awareness, to educate and to form personnel who interact with children, it is due to the creativity and hard work of every member of the team. The protection of children and their rights is definitely at the heart of every project of IBCR.”

**Eva Abu Halaweh**  
*Executive Director of Mizan, Law Group for Human Rights*

“Mizan has benefited a great deal from the expert technical assistance that IBCR provided during the production of our country profile on the implementation of children’s rights in Jordan, as part of the Manara project implemented in partnership with Save the Children Sweden. IBCR’s depth and breadth of knowledge about children’s rights, coupled with their willingness to work with organisations in various countries to transfer this knowledge, contributes immeasurably to the quality of advocacy designed to improve the lives of children around the world. Mizan is proud to partner with IBCR and looks forward to future collaborations.”

**Lawyer Catherine Beaulieu**  
*Deputy Programme Director*

“Nationally or internationally, the concept of child victims does not receive enough attention; child victims are too often forgotten in the judicial process. While the IBCR initiated the Guidelines, which were adopted in 2005, there is still much work to be done with regards to the evaluation of their implementation. I believe our work has established a solid foundation from which to deepen our comprehension of the issues related to child victims and witnesses of crime, and to offer other innovative and effective solutions to enforce their rights, both in Quebec and around the world.”

**Kristina Ziaugra**  
*Communications and logistic – Forum Vancouver*

“My experience working for the IBCR was one of the most inspiring periods of my life. I worked on the Child Sex Tourism Programme and organised a forum in Vancouver for the travel industry. The forum was focused on raising awareness among stakeholders and providing them with realistic means of taking action against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism and travel. This was very enriching to me because it demonstrated the impact that one organisation could have across private, public, and government sectors. What my experience at the IBCR has taught me, is the value of hard work and dedication and that armed with this, there is no problem that is too big to tackle. I am very grateful to everyone at the Bureau for providing me with this opportunity and I leave with many cherished memories.”
Country Profiles

Project MANARA
“The Lighthouse” in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Objectives: To promote promising and commendable practises that protect and defend the rights of the child.

The elaboration of Country profiles began in 2003-2004. This programme is intended to summarise all existing information on the situation of the rights of children in the studied countries, to improve the information, and especially to promote actions taken by governments and civil society to implement the Convention. The scope is regional.

The work done by the IBCR distinguishes itself in that it shares the analysed information and data with policy makers, national and regional actors in order to encourage them to act on the rights of the child. Promising practises are being put forward for the protection and promotion of the rights of the child.

In short, we focus on what “works”!

Middle East and North Africa region: depoliticise the rights of the child and promote the work and experience of national NGOs...

In recent decades, increased attention has been given to governmental and political reforms in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA). The importance of a rights-based approach is being recognized and credit is being given to the role of NGOs in combating poverty, effectively developing aid and promoting and protecting human rights and the rights of the child.

In this region, the role of civil society organisations in the promotion of the rights of the child is as wide as it is varied. In fact, the participation of critical and independent civil society in the application and compliance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is indispensable.

NGO’s also play an essential role in raising awareness on children as an equal members of society, and integrating their rights in practice and in law.

Project MANARA: Second year

The Bureau is currently working on a project with Save the Children’s (Sweden- SCS) Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa and is targeting 11 countries in the MENA region.

The Bureau and SCS have built a common vision which has lead to the signature of an agreement with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency for this three and a half year-project. Two main components developed by the Bureau are: the training of organisations and the publication of analysis and research to be used as the basis for CRC’s related actions.

Last year, in the second year of the MANARA project, three new civil society organisations were added to the project: Mizan in Jordan, Defence for Children International- Palestine section, and the Iraqi Child’s Rights Network, a coalition of 74 Iraqi NGOs.

Four other organisations have been associated with the project since its inception: the Lebanese Education and Formation Association (ALEF), the Development without Borders Action (Naba’a) in Lebanon, the NGO Bayti in Morocco and Soul for Development in Yemen. These organisations have since received further training from the Bureau to upgrade the knowledge and skills acquired the first year.

These organisations were able to produce a regional analysis on a theme chosen by them: violence against children in school. This study highlights the commendable practices in terms of prevention, legal framework and services to the victims in these three countries. It also includes recommendations for government institutions, civil society organisations and the international community to improve the protection of children in school.
Country Profiles

With this innovative programme, the Bureau publishes, independently or in partnership with local organisations, country profiles which are data driven and supported by rigorous analysis, in order to highlight the challenges inherent in children’s right, as well as to promote the progress that is made in this regard at a national level. This tool has become an effective complement to the United Nation’s monitoring system, and aims at promoting children-related actions.

Training and Knowledge Transfer

To encourage partners to independently produce their own country profile, and use the results for implementing the CRC in their countries and region, the Bureau has prioritised knowledge transfer, through training and capacity building with local partners. During this past year, the Bureau has trained 7 civil society organisations in six countries of MENA region about children’s rights, and more particularly about research methodology and analysis. In 2011, this knowledge transfer has resulted in the publication of six countries profiles by local partners: the West Bank, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen, as well as the regional study on violence against children in school in Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen.

Lasting results

In 2011, in addition to training three other local organisations in Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt, the Bureau trained partners to become trainers themselves so that knowledge could remain in the region and be transmitted to other stakeholders.

A periodic review of country profiles will be conducted in order to provide up to date information on the promotion of children’s rights around the world.

As a result of its positive experiences in the Middle East and North Africa, the Bureau will increase its partnerships with local and regional organisations in order to implement innovative, long-term projects and ensure the lasting results and the promotion of the CRC.

Promoting the CRC through innovative partnerships

Police forces and children’s rights:
A special partnership with FRANCOPOL, the International Francophone Network of Police Forces

In 2009, the Bureau gave a workshop to policemen from various police academies in French-speaking Africa. This workshop focused on the promotion of the best interest of the child and the international tools that exist to implement those interests. The Bureau’s participation was possible thanks to the support of the International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF), of FRANCOPOL, and the Sûreté du Quebec, who hosted the regional conference on the training of police forces in West Africa.

As a result of the positive experience with FRANCOPOL, the Bureau was able to organize a workshop that focused on training for police forces in West and Central Africa on the international norms on juvenile justice in Cotonou, Benin on the 13th, 14th and 15th of December, 2010.

Training in Amman (Jordan), January 2011.

Regional Workshop in Benin on the training of police forces – December 2010.
A diverse range of participants

Police academies from ten countries were targeted to participate to the workshop: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. Thanks to the help of the Direction de Cooperation Internationale in Paris and National Security officers from various French embassies in the region, contacts were made with Ministries of the interior (or equivalent) in each of the ten countries.

… Around an ambitious objective

Following the meeting in Burkina Faso in 2001, the OIF, Francopol and the Bureau organised a meeting at which it proposed the implementation of a long-term training programme for Central and West African police officers that would facilitate durable change.

It is at this meeting that the basis for this programme, which promotes norms for children in conflict, was developed.

It is our intention that for the following year, we will build upon the experiences and exchanges we have had with our partners in these police academies to further promote and develop programmes around children’s rights.

A testimonial from…

Jean-Baptiste Zoungrana,
Technical advisor to the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity in Burkina Faso, Member of the Board of Directors since 2010.

“An actor recognized all over the world in the promotion and the protection of children’s rights, the IBCR has become an increasingly proactive organisation with regards to the sensitive and complex issues of: children and armed conflicts, child victims and witnesses of crime as well as sexual exploitation of children. These social plagues represent severe and inadmissible violations of children’s rights without any discrimination.

By developing theme-specific tools and approaches, the IBCR successfully combines theory and practice and obtains concrete results that have a significant impact on the lives of children. I am proud to be member of its Board of Directors and to be able to contribute modestly to the realization of its missions and to its international impact.”
The International Bureau for Children’s Rights has been involved in the prevention and protection of the rights of children in armed conflict since 1999 and has been the coordinator of the Canadian Forum on Children in Armed Conflict since 2006. The Bureau is a leader in consultation and development of expertise in this field, and has been successful in developing a strong network of experts from all parts of the world who are willing to collaborate to achieve this common objective.

**A Guide to rebalance unequal developments in the field of Children’s Rights**

During the past ten years, new norms in the field of international humanitarian and international human rights law have emerged to protect children’s rights in armed conflicts. However, stakeholders involved in this field as well as government officials are unaware of the scope of those new norms and the way in which they can be applied or implemented. Usually, they are only focused on the Convention on the rights of the child, the most widely known and implemented tool at the disposal of actors in this field.

As such, raising awareness on the legislative framework around the protection of children in armed conflicts has become a top priority for the Bureau. Pursuant to this objective, the Bureau published “Children and Armed Conflict: A Guide to International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law” to assist countries involved in armed conflicts implement, at a national level, new international laws in terms of protection of children victims.

**Success for the reference Guide in terms of international humanitarian and international human rights law: The Bureau can be proud of its publication!**

Published in March 2010 by the IBCR, the guidebook *Children and Armed Conflicts: A Guide to International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law* (updated 2003 edition) has become a reference tool for those involved in the field of children in armed conflicts, including trainers, government representatives, researchers and academics…

The project, developed in collaboration with the Children and armed conflict Unit, the Children’s Legal Centre and the Human Rights Centre of Essex University, has been translated into many languages (French, English and soon, in Spanish and Arabic). This book provides a detailed mapping of humanitarian and international law of children’s rights in armed conflicts, and acts as a pedagogical and normative tool, by using concrete examples that describe the protection of children’s rights.

In order to facilitate access and use, the guidebook is also available on the Bureau’s website.

**Positive returns: both quantitative and qualitative**

The publication has had considerable impact with more than 1,100 downloads of its French version and no less than 1,300 downloads of the English edition. These statistics do not take into account downloads from other websites, such as Child Rights Information network (CRIN), or Save the Children resource centre, or those who share the information with their peers without downloading directly from the website.

Mindful of raising awareness around the issue of children in armed conflict among national coalitions and non-governmental organisations, IBCR provided training sessions in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, and Senegal in October 2010.

The guidebook was used as the basis for these training sessions, which were made possible with the assistance of Save the Children’s Regional offices, organizations committed to reporting the worse violations in the field of children’s rights.

On International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers and in collaboration with Amnesty International and non-governmental organisations, the Bureau sponsored the release of the documentary “Grace, Milly, Lucy… Child Soldiers”, directed by Raymond Provencher in collaboration with Macuma Doc and the National Film Board of Canada.
A word from readers and users of the guide...

“I found the guide very interesting and really useful for any stakeholder involved in child protection in general and mainly in child protection in emergencies. It’s a wonderful “handbook” full of relevant interventions we need to better act and react in our daily tasks and duties.”

Mr. Ibrahima DioUF, Programme Officer, West Africa, Save the Children Sweden

“I will use the guide primarily as a reference tool to inform discussions, proposals and projects related to conflict-affected children. I will share the guide with our office in the field and leaders in communities that we work with to raise awareness and build capacity.”

Ms. Jennifer Adams, Programme Manager, Plan International Canada

“It is certainly useful especially as it is very comprehensive and also includes a lot of original sources as reference material it can therefore serve as a quick reference but also includes original documents for further research if needed. It is useful in that it does not only give an overview of key issues as the first edition already did but also shows major developments.”

Mr. Martin Nagler, Child Protection Adviser, United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo

“The IBCR guide will appeal to many different groups. For newcomers to the field, it is an excellent introduction to the essential issues around children and armed conflict. It provides the historical context, the constantly evolving legal and normative framework, and a strong description of the multi-faceted effects of armed conflict on children. For veterans in the field, involved in policy, practice or research, this guide is useful as an up-to-date resource on the state of the issues.”

Ms. Lindsay Jones, PhD Student, School of Social Work, McGill University, Canada
The IBCR’s project against child trafficking: “Prevention of trafficking and protection of child victims in the Congo: Police officer and social worker training”

In the summer of 2010, the International Bureau for Children’s Rights (IBCR) received funding from the U.S. Department of State to implement a project entitled, “Prevention of trafficking and protection of child victims in the Congo: Police officer and social worker training.” This project has allowed the IBCR to expand its activities in Africa and to demonstrate the IBCR’s expertise in the fight against human trafficking. In fact, while studies reveal that internal and transnational trafficking exists in the Congo, the knowledge about the trafficking phenomenon and children’s rights are limited. The IBCR’s mission is to fill in these knowledge gaps as much as possible.

Through this project, which will last two years (October 2010-October 2012), the IBCR will train key stakeholders, such as the police, gendarmes, and social workers, who can fight against, prevent and protect children from child trafficking. In the Congo, the IBCR has the support of UNICEF in the implementation of this project. We also count on the support of the National Superior School of Police and National Gendarmerie School, both of which are among the principal beneficiaries of this project.

Within the framework of this project, the IBCR completed a mapping exercise which provided a census of the actors who are or who should be involved in fighting child trafficking. This work has allowed the IBCR to gain a broader understanding of the current situation of child trafficking in the Congo, including the mandates and activities of both state and non-state actors. Through this mapping exercise, the IBCR produced a needs analysis of the gendarmes and police officers, as well as social workers, in order to establish a training programme that is adapted to their specific needs and to the context in which they operate.

The importance of networking and transferring expertise for a more effective fight against child trafficking

During this past year, the IBCR successfully established close ties with key institutions working to guarantee the rights of children in Congo. The IBCR is not only working together with UNICEF, the National Superior School of Police and the National Gendarmerie School, but also with the Congolese Government (Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs) and NGOs, by consulting with them and obtaining their feedback at each step of the project. We have greatly benefited from their contributions.

This fall, the National Superior School of Police and the National Gendarmerie School are hosting our Train the Trainer programme for law enforcement officers, and they will continue to do so until the spring of 2012. In addition to the police and gendarme training, the IBCR will move into the second part of this project, which consists of designing and facilitating a training programme for Congolese social workers in order to improve their effective assistance to trafficking victims.

The IBCR hopes to bring the experience gained in the Congo to other regions of the world and to continue to adapt and develop its expertise in other areas of intervention.
Emmanuel Bayeni
Consultant and Representative of the IBCR at Brazzaville

“We can never say enough: human trafficking is a practice which particularly offends human consciousness, even more so when it affects children. The image of children, such vulnerable persons, bent under the harness of domestic and other hard work is unbearable. After reviewing the actions taken to fight this phenomenon in the Republic of the Congo, the IBCR has taken the opportunity to reinforce the capacity of people who are charged with the application of the law (particularly police officers and police force) so that the crime of child trafficking will be more punished. The first phase of the IBCR project has satisfied the expectations of the beneficiaries and of this we are proud. May the paths opened by the IBCR continue and last through time, because restoring the dignity of a child trafficking victim is long-term work”.

Lieutenant-Colonel René Iloki-Obosso,
Director of School Programming at the National Gendarmerie School, Brazzaville

“The National Gendarmerie School is very happy with the help which has been brought to us in raising awareness on children’s rights within the army.”

Police Colonel Albert Ngoto,
Director of the National Superior School of Police, Brazzaville

“Awakening our awareness of our duty to protect children and to take ownership of this problem: these are the effects of the promising partnership between the National Superior School of Police and the International Bureau for Children’s Rights”.

Many testimonies...
Becoming a true reference tool: the international influence of The Guidelines

For the past fifteen years, the IBCR has been working to protect child victims and witnesses of crime. While originating from the IBCR, the Guidelines on justice for child victims and witnesses of crime (the Guidelines) were adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2005. The approach of the Guidelines is innovative because it considers the child to be at the centre of the judicial process and not only as a peripheral component of the proceedings or an instrument used to ensure a sentence. The Guidelines reflect the promising practices developed throughout the world in matters of child victims and witnesses of crime protection and they can be adapted to the national context of all countries.

Today, these guidelines are an international reference tool for professionals working with child victims and witnesses of crime, with the Committee on the Rights of the Child regularly recommending that states integrate the Guidelines into their judicial system.

The Child Justice Programme was developed to promote and uphold the rights of the child in the judicial process in Canada and abroad.

This year activities focused on documenting the practices of actors working with child victims and witnesses of crime in Quebec and on the capacity building of police officers, the gendarmes and social workers in the Congo.

The IBCR also had the privilege of being invited by the Swedish government (Ministry of Justice) to participate in the European meeting on the CURE Project (Children in the Union – Rights and Empowerment). This project, managed by the Government of Sweden through its Department of Support and Compensation for Victims of Crime in cooperation with nine state members of the European Union, is co-financed by a European Commission which aims to “Prevent and fight criminality” (ISEC). On the 21st of January 2011 in Stockholm, Sweden, Catherine Beaulieu, the IBCR’s Assistant Director of Programmes, gave a remarkable presentation on the Canadian context of child victims and witnesses of crime.

At this conference, much to the surprise of our team, our Swedish colleagues presented us with a Swedish translation of the Guidelines!

Catherine Beaulieu with the CURE conference organizers. Stockholm, Sweden, January 2011.

A study on the application of the Guidelines in Quebec

Concerned by the lack of data on the application of the Guidelines in Quebec, the IBCR team updated its work on child victims and witnesses of crime in the spring of 2010 by completing a research project describing how Canada, and particularly Quebec, enforces the rights of child victims and witnesses. The project, unique in its way, was made possible through the financial support of the National Office for Victims of the Department of Justice Canada.

This project consists of collecting the different points of views of lawyers, judges, social workers and other professionals to highlight Canada’s current progress on the issue, including good practices and challenges faced in the realization of children’s rights by professionals, parents and the children themselves. This initiative was inspired by the CURE Project (Children in the Union – Rights and Empowerment), which aims to establish a complete picture of children’s rights in the European Union and provide governments with recommendations.

IBCR gives a voice to child victims

The IBCR hopes to improve and carry on with its research project on child victims and witnesses of crime by obtaining the opinions of child victims. In this manner, the children concerned will have the possibility to fully participate in promoting and ensuring the respect of their rights.
Sexual exploitation of children

Continuing IBCR commitment to fight against the trafficking of children wherever it takes place: The Peruvian Project

Peru has become a major source of human trafficking, primarily for commercial sexual exploitation.

Most victims are young females who come from impoverished areas. These victims commonly arrive in destination countries such as Ecuador, Spain, Japan, Italy, the United States, and Canada.

Since 2004, there have been 726 cases of human trafficking reported in Peru, of which 467 (64%) were child victims.

In 2007, a law was passed prohibiting all forms of trafficking in Peru.

However, since the law is relatively new, there is still a lack of understanding on how to take these specific violations through the judicial system, particularly as it is complicated by displacement. As a result, victims often refuse to come forward.

Together with our Peruvian partner, the Humano Y Social Alternativo organisation which is based in Lima, capital of Peru, the IBCR elaborated training against trafficking for public defenders and developed a broad media campaign to inform the population about the risks of human trafficking and their rights to legal aid.

The IBCR has developed a three-tiered plan to be executed in Lima & its surrounding areas:

(I) Manuals: Information guidelines for the legal assistance of victims; these will be directed towards public defenders, and will be followed by an evaluation to ensure the understanding of materials.

(II) Training: Using the manual information, we have trained 114 public defenders on how to assist victims of trafficking (specifically children).

(III) Awareness Campaign: Inform the public of free legal aid, directed at vulnerable populations of children in impoverished areas.

A special thank you to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade for its trust and financial support!
CHILD SEX TOURISM

Establishing a pan-Canadian coalition to fight against child sex tourism

IBCR is pleased to collaborate with Plan Canada and Toronto-based OneChild, to fight against child sex tourism. In this effort, the Bureau can count on the support of Unicef Canada.

Our first collaboration was the organisation of a Forum to educate the travel and tourism industries about child sex tourism. The event, which took place in Toronto, on 24 September 2010, was hosted by Air Canada. The forum was an opportunity for IBCR to introduce the pan-Canadian campaign to travel agencies and tour operators from the Greater Toronto area. The campaign promotes extraterritorial laws through posters and leaflets created and generously donated by specialists from the Montreal advertising agency Agence BCP.

Thanks to the support of the Department of Justice Canada, the campaign will be promoted throughout Canada during 2011-2012. Their support also allowed us to organise a Forum in Vancouver in order that we could reach the travel industry in Western Canada, which is focused primarily on travels toward Asian destinations.

November 20th 2010, International Day of Children’s Rights… and the launch of the first Canadian campaign against sexual exploitation of children in the travel and tourism industries

A launch was organized with our partners OneChild and Plan Canada and with the participation of the Sûreté du Québec, the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal and the Canada Border Services Agency.

The campaign’s launch received extensive media coverage through newspaper, radio and television.

“A special thank you to Agence BCP and the photography Agency Shoot Studio for the design and modeling of the poster for this campaign, and many thanks to Air Canada for their generous contribution to the event!”

Cheryl Perera, founder and president of OneChild

“The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism represents a heinous crime that spells life-long, and sometimes life-threatening consequences for the physical, psychological, and emotional well-being of the child. Nevertheless, the Canadian travel and tourism industry is poised to help stem the demand fuelled by Canadian travellers by participating in this far-reaching deterrence campaign that provides a fear factor for potential abusers, and a call to action to the Canadian public to protect children.”

Cheryl Perera, founder and president of OneChild
After the launch, the campaign posters were displayed at Montreal–Pierre Elliott Trudeau Airport and Jean Lesage International Airport in Quebec from December 2010 to March 2011, high-travel season. The posters were strategically located in the international departures areas where people travelling to Africa, South East Asia and Latin America would be guaranteed to see them. Air Canada’s En Route magazine, found on their aircrafts, also featured our campaign in the March 2011 publication.

This first nationwide campaign against sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism was officially launched on the 18th of November 2010, for International Day of Children’s Rights at Pierre Elliot Trudeau (Montréal).

This pan-Canadian effort was the first collaboration between stakeholders from the private sector (Air Canada, Aéroports de Montréal), government agencies (Canada Border Services Agency, Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal, Sûreté du Québec) and non-governmental organisations (International Bureau for Children’s Rights, Plan Canada and OneChild, with support from UNICEF Canada) on such an initiative with the purpose of:

1. Raising travellers’ awareness before their departure, specifically people travelling to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean—which represent the main destinations for child sex tourism for Canadians. Our duty to report a child in danger doesn’t stop at the boarders!

2. Promoting the coalition’s role in asserting the legislation granting extraterritorial jurisdiction over child sex tourism offences and strengthening the Government of Canada’s law enforcement capacity to combat child sexual exploitation, and increase its role in raising public awareness on sexual exploitation of children.

International recognition for the Bureau…

IBCR is now the proud Canadian representative of the Code of Conduct for the protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism sector (the Code), which aims to integrate a child sex tourism component to their tourism organisations’ social responsibility policies.
Revenues and expenses

Financial statements 2010-2011

The budget of the International Bureau for Children’s Rights for the period 2010-2011 was CAD 782,642 $.

The surplus of expenditures over revenues as of 31 March 2011 was CAD 3,321 $.

Revenues

April 1st 2010 to March 31st 2011

During the period 2010-2011, activities were made possible through private contributions (27.7%), contributed services (22.3%), government contributions (14.8%) and international organizations contributions (35.2%), for a total revenue of CAD 782,642 $.

Expenditures

April 1st 2010 to March 31st 2011

Governance and administrative expenditures amounted to CAD 47,216 $ and CAD 738,747 $ was invested in program development. Total expenditures amounted to CAD 785,963 $.

Sister Sheila Sullivan, cnd, Treasurer

Auditor:
Rocheleau Labranche and Associates Chartered Accountants

Note: Copies of the Financial Statements and Auditors’ Reports can be obtained from the International Bureau for Children’s Rights.

Luc Ouimet
Director of administration, MBA
The first Canadian campaign to fight against sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism was officially launched today within the framework of the International day for children’s rights, at the Montreal-Trudeau Airport.

For the first time, this pan-canadian initiative brings together actors from the private sector (Air Canada and Montreal-Trudeau Airport), governmental organisations (Canada Border Services Agency, Service de police de la Ville de Montréal and the Sûreté du Québec) and non-governmental organisations (The International Bureau for Children’s Rights, Plan Canada, OneChild, with the support of UNICEF Canada).”


To learn more about all our media activities, please consult the 2009-2011 press review of the IBCR on the web site: www.ibcr.org
Acknowledgments

The work of the International Bureau for Children’s Rights is made possible thanks to the generous contribution of the following donors and partners:

– Action Liée au développement sans Frontières – Liban
– Air Canada
– Association des femmes autochtones du Canada
– Association libanaise pour l'Enseignement et la Formation – Liban
– Bayti – Maroc
– Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec
– Peacebuild Canada
– Centraide
– Centres jeunesse de Montréal – Institut universitaire
– Centre international pour la prévention de la criminalité
– Capital Humano y Social Alternativo – Pérou
– Coalition canadienne des droits des enfants
– Coopération Internationale à Paris et des Attachés de Sécurité
– Defence for Children International – Section Palestine (DCI-PS) – Palestine
– DynaCharge Laser Inc.
– Filles de la Charité du Sacré-Cœur-de-Jésus
– Filles de la Croix
– Filles de la Sagesse du Canada
– Forum sur les Enfants dans les Conflits Armés, Canada
– Francopol
– Fundacion Paniamor Costa Rica
– Gendarmerie Royale du Canada
– Gouvernement du Canada – Agence canadienne de développement international
– Gouvernement du Canada – Ministère de la condition féminine
– Gouvernement du Canada – Sécurité publique Canada (section Québec)
– Gouvernement du Canada – Agence des services frontaliers du Canada
– Gouvernement du Canada – Ministère de la Justice
– Gouvernement du Canada – Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et du Commerce International
– Gouvernement du Canada – Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada
– Gouvernement du Québec – Ministère de la Justice
– Gouvernement du Québec – Ministère de l’Immigration et des Communautés culturelles
– Gouvernement du Québec - Ministère de la Sécurité publique
– Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
– Institut de Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Conseil
– Institut Jeanne d’Arc
– Iraqi Child Rights Network - Iraq
– Les Œuvres Le Royer
– McGill University
– Mizan -Jordanie
– Missionnaires Oblates de Saint-Boniface
– Oblates Franciscaines de St-Joseph
– Office des Nations Unies contre la Drogue et le Crime
– OneChild
– ONF
– Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
– Patrimoine Canada
– Petites Franciscaines de Marie
– Petites Sœurs de Sainte-Famille
– Plan Canada
– Save the Children Canada
– Save the Children - Suède
– Servantes de Notre-Dame Reine du Clergé
– Servantes du Saint-Cœur de Marie
– Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal
– Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception
– Société du Sacré-Coeur
– Sœurs Auxiliatrices
– Sœurs de la Charité
– Sœurs de la Charité de Saint-Louis,
– Sœurs de la Congrégation Notre-Dame
– Sœurs de la Miséricorde
– Sœurs de la Présentation
– Sœurs de la Présentation de Marie
– Sœurs de la Providence
– Sœurs de Notre-Dame Auxiliatrice
– Sœurs de Notre-Dame des Missions
– Sœurs de Notre-Dame du Saint-Rosaire
– Sœurs de Sainte-Croix
– Sœurs de Saint-François d’Assise
– Sœurs de Saint-Joseph
– Sœurs de Ste-Anne
– Sœurs des Saints Noms de Jésus et de Marie
– Sœurs du Bon Pasteur
– Sœurs Franciscaines
– Sœurs Hospitalières de Saint-Joseph
– Sœurs Missionnaires de Notre-Dame-des-Anges
– Sœurs Ursulines
– Soul for Development – Yémen
– Sûreté du Québec
– UNICEF Afrique de l’ouest et du Centre
– UNICEF Canada
– UNICEF New York
– Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)
– Via Rail Canada
– Vision Mondiale Canada
– War Child Canada
The IBCR wishes to thank the numerous professionals, interns, and students who graciously provide their time and services to the development of the IBCR’s programmes.

Thanks to them, and to the IBCR’s simple and efficient organisation, the Bureau is able to pursue its mission while minimizing certain costs, among which administrative costs.

Special thanks to persons who accepted to be interviewed, who participated in discussion groups, or who shared with us constructive comments in relation to our projects.