UNICEF REPORT CARD 14

How we can make Canada a great country for kids

Children and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region 2017

Lisa Wolff
Director, Policy & Research

www.unicef.ca/irc14

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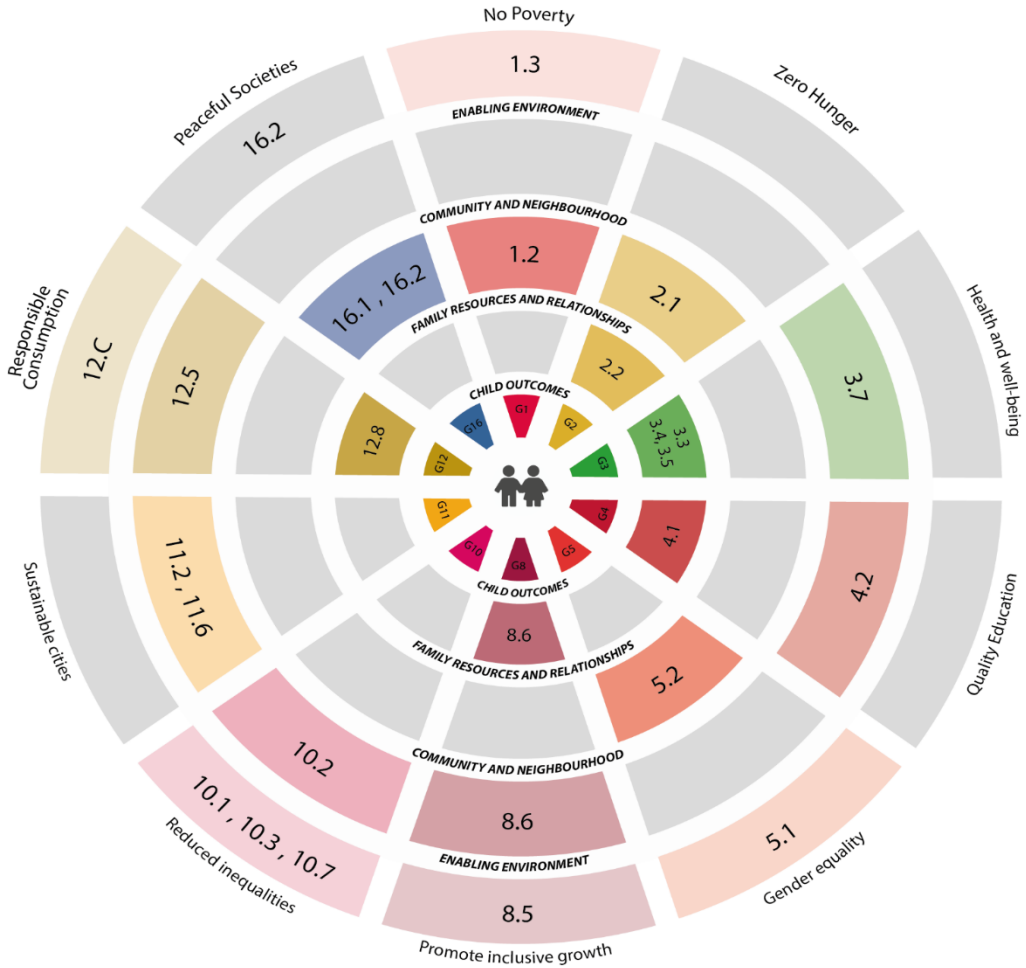

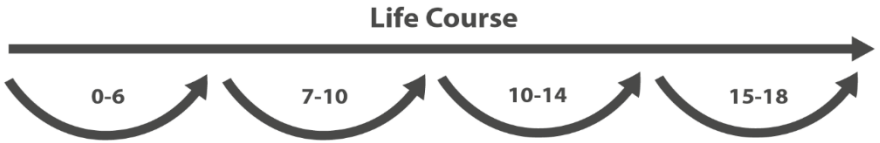

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41 OECD AND EU COUNTRIES
ON THE

10 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
MOST IMPORTANT FOR CHILD WELL-BEING

BY MEASURING PROGRESS ON

25 SPECIALLY SELECTED INDICATORS

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The UNICEF Index of Child and Youth Well-being and Sustainability

- How are Canada's children and youth?
- How does Canada compare with peers?
- What's getting better and where are we stuck?
- What would move the needle?

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How does Canada rank?

TOP THIRD

MIDDLE THIRD

BOTTOM THIRD

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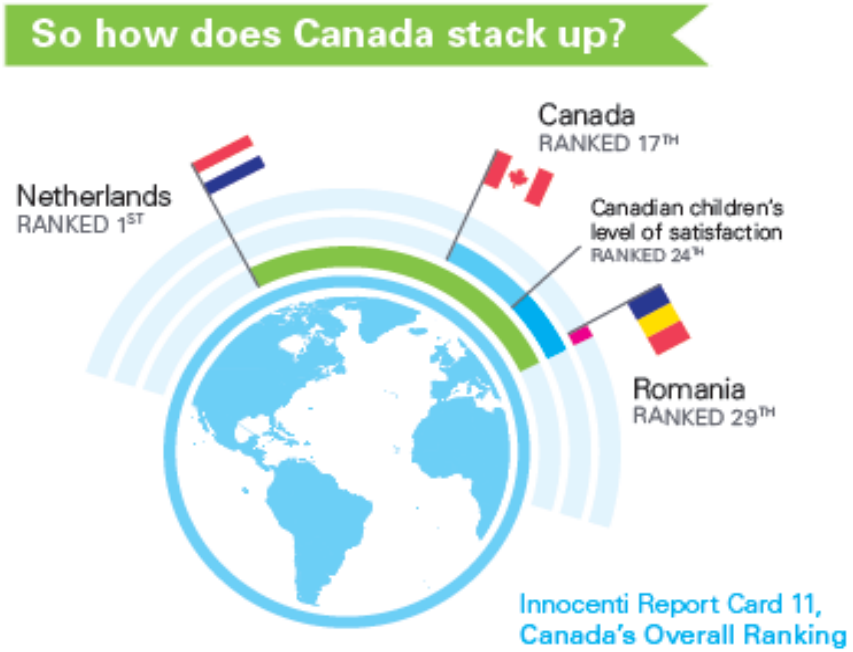
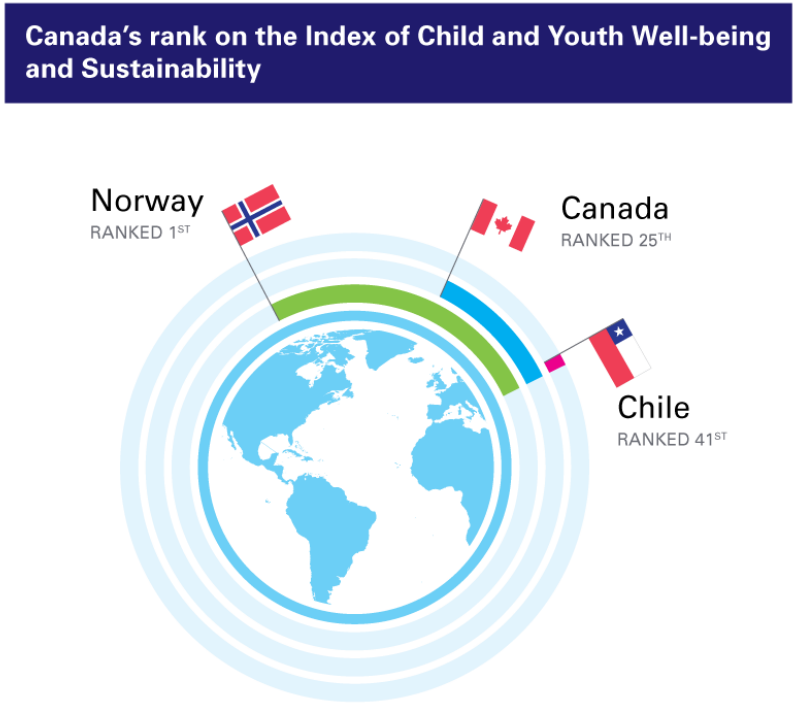
Still stuck?



2013



2017

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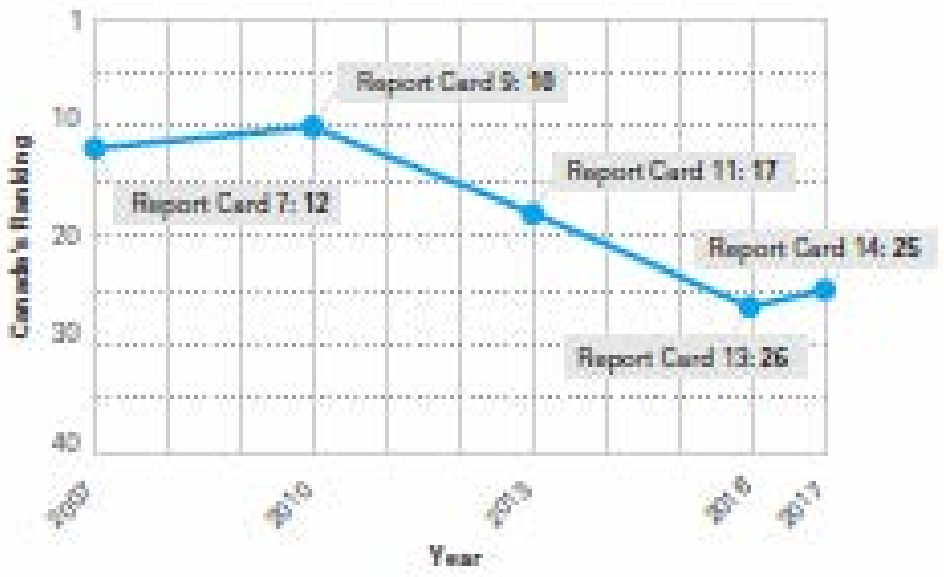
The composite index

Figure 3: Index of Child and Youth Well-being and Sustainability (2017)

Rank	Country
1	Norway
2	Germany
3	Denmark
4	Sweden
5	Finland
6	Iceland
7	Switzerland
8	Korea
9	Slovenia
10	Netherlands
11	Ireland
12	Japan
13	United Kingdom
14	Luxembourg
15	Austria
16	Spain
17	Estonia
18	Portugal
19	France
20	Czech Republic
21	Australia
22	Croatia
23	Poland
24	Italy
25	Canada
26	Belgium
27	Cyprus
28	Latvia
29	Malta



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Rankings by indicator

Figure 2: How Canada ranks by indicator

Indicator	Rank	Value	Best Performing Country
Basic Learning Proficiency	4	80.8%	83.1%
Children in Jobless Households	4	4.2%	2.1%
Awareness of Environmental Problems	6	71.0%	82.0%
Income Advantage Gap	11	32.9%	20.6%
Teen Mental Health	14	22.0%	14.2%
Teen Drunkenness	17	7.2%	1.7%
Breastfeeding	18	30%	71%
Preschool Participation	19	96.5%	99.9%
Air Pollution in Cities	19	9.7 PM2.5µ	4.8 PM2.5µ
Excluded Youth (NEET)	20	7.1%	2.0%
Bottom-end Income Inequality	23	51.6%	34.2%
Teen Births	23	9.5/1,000	1.6/1,000
Child Income Poverty	24	22.2%	9.2%
Overall Income Inequality	24	1.12	0.70
Children's Food Security	24	11.9%	1.4%
Bullying	27	15.0%	4.5%
Social Transfers	29	21%	66%
Unhealthy Weight	29	25.0%	8.3%
Neonatal Mortality	31	3.6/1,000	0.9/1,000
Teen Suicide	31	8.5/100,000	1.7/100,000
Child Homicide	33	0.90/100,000	0.00/100,000

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Progress Gaps

1. In pairs, take a set of Indicator Cards and lay them out in front of you on the table.
2. Group the indicators you think have IMPROVED over the past decade in Canada to your left.
3. Group the remaining indicators (no change or deteriorated) to your right.

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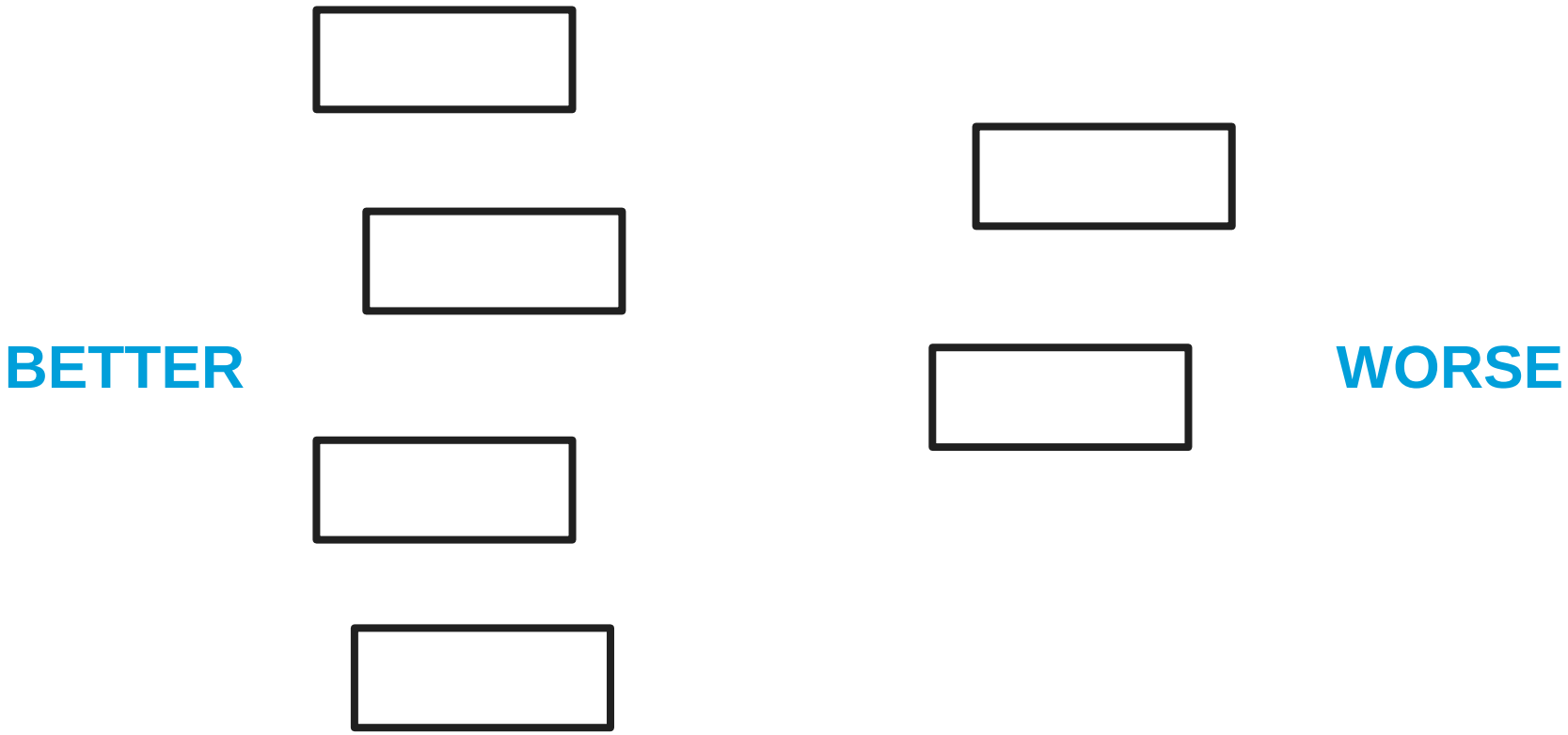
Progress Gaps



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Progress Gaps

Figure 4: Canada's progress in 21 indicators of child and youth well-being

Indicators that have improved over time	Indicators that have worsened over time
+ Overall Income Inequality	– Income Advantage Gap
+ Child Income Poverty	– Basic Learning Proficiency
+ Neonatal Mortality	– Excluded Youth (NEET)
+ Teen Drunkenness	– Bottom-end Income Inequality
+ Teen Births	– Air Pollution in Cities
+ Teen Suicide	– Unhealthy Weight
+ Child Homicide	– Teen Mental Health
	– Bullying

NOTE: The changes over time may not in all cases be statistically significant; any direction of improvement or decline is included.

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Lines Ros Asquith

From *The Guardian*, UK edition 2007

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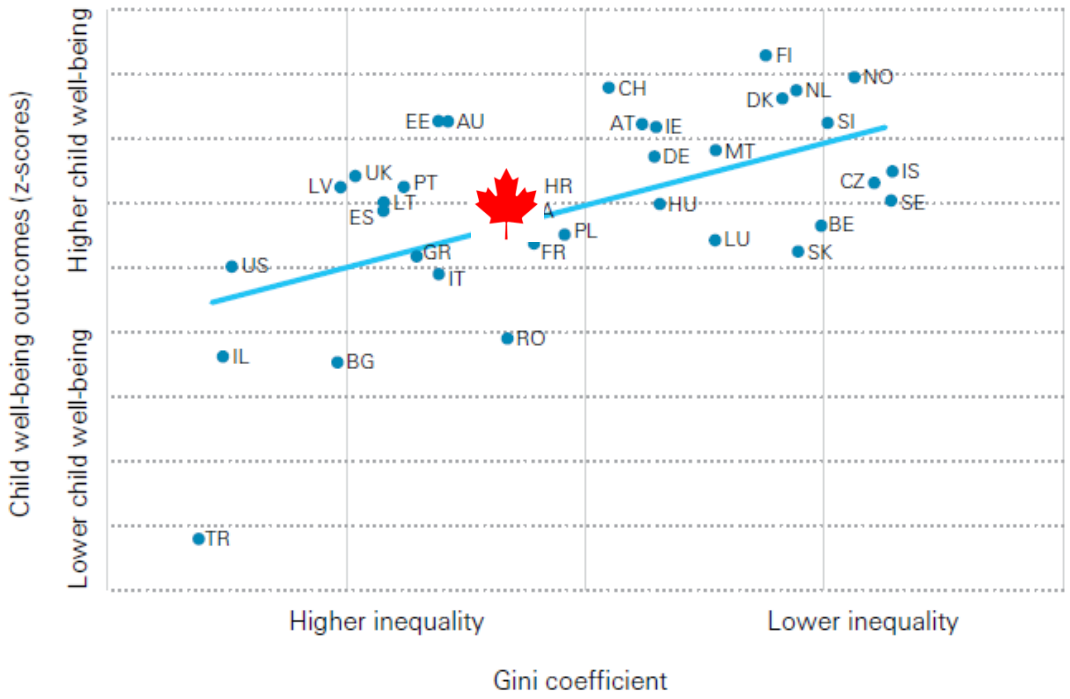
Wider income inequality/lower child well-being

Figure 31 Income inequality and child well-being outcomes



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Competitive childhoods

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Sustainable childhoods

1. Address broad income inequality

2. Invest earlier

3. Lean on the lagging indicators and design solutions with children

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CY-INDEX + Youth Participation

What Children and Youth Say About Measuring Their Well-being

Christine Holliday
Data Lead
UNICEF Canada

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Canadian Index of Child and Youth Well-being (CY-INDEX)

To enable all children and youth to achieve their well-being goals and provide every opportunity for great outcomes by reporting on progress, identifying priorities and inspiring action

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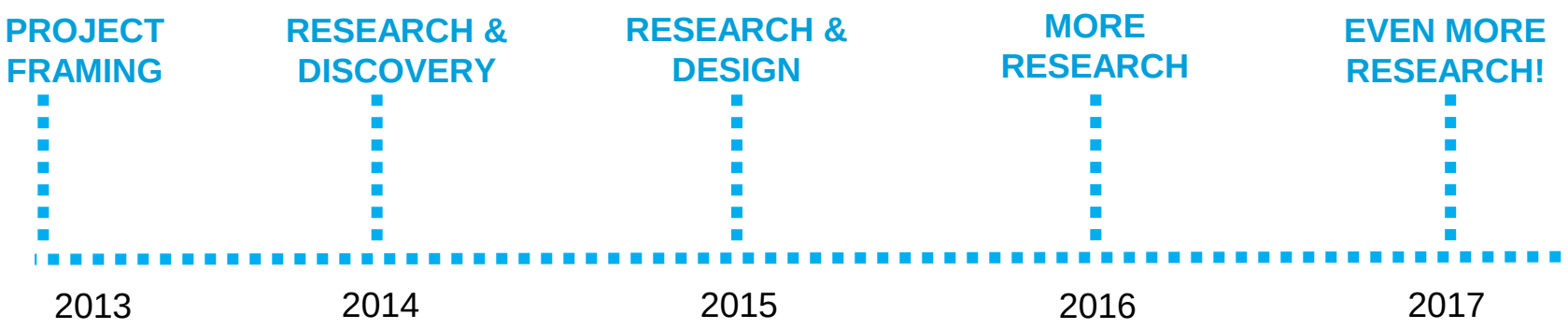
CY-INDEX DESIGN PROCESS



- Some questions asked along the way…
  - *What makes the difference among peer countries?*
  - *What is child and youth well-being?*
  - *Who is measuring what and how are they doing it?*
  - ***What does well-being mean to children and youth?***

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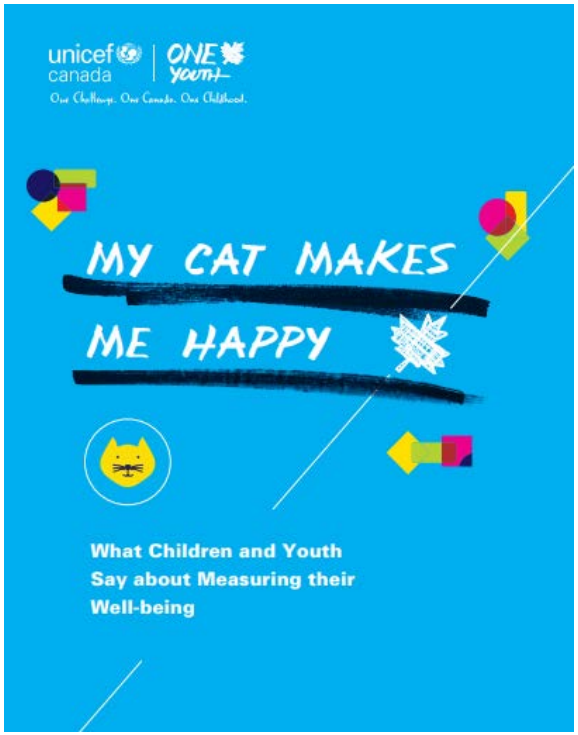
MY CAT MAKES ME HAPPY

- What's important to child and youth well-being
- Released August 2017
- Synthesis of youth voices
  - Part I: Literature review
  - Part II: Youth participation
- Young people acted as researchers



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PART I: LITERATURE REVIEW RESULTS

- Subjective well-being is important to well-being
- Well-being is holistic
- Poverty and discrimination are detrimental to well-being
- Well-being is directly related to relationships and a sense of belonging to their society
- NEXT STEP: Talk to young people

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PART II: YOUTH PARTICIPATION

- **National Young Decision-Makers Conference**
  - March 2016
  - 145 young people from every province and territory

- **Youth Workshops**
  - Fall 2016
  - 6 workshops, 84 young people, ages 11-21
  - 3-6 hours each
  - Diverse in age, location, experience, culture

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PART II – YOUTH WORKSHOPS

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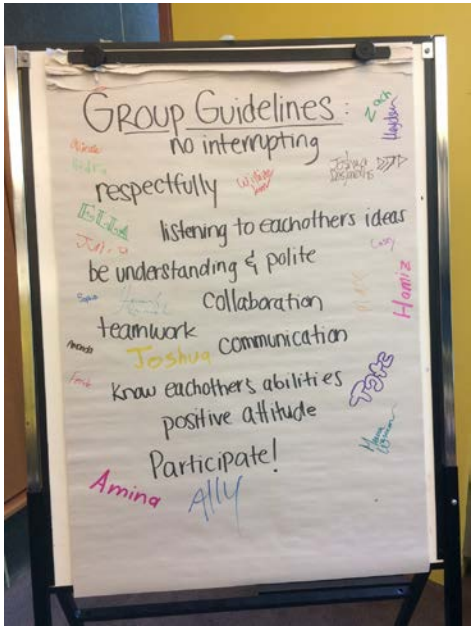
PART II – WORKSHOP PROCESS

- Build a safe space and introduce workshop

- *Q: What is well-being? What does well-being mean to other young Canadians? What is important to your well-being?*

- Group work, individual and group thinking

- Add indicators to wall, debate and discuss



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PART II – WORKSHOP PROCESS

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PART II – WORKSHOP ADAPTATIONS

- **Cultural inclusion in Whitehorse, YK**
  - Organized workshop using medicine wheel
  - Allowed time for storytelling
  - Opened workshop with prayer with local Elder
- **Inclusion of different abilities**
  - Varying levels of literacy
- **Inclusion of Francophone youth in Manawan, QC**
  - Translated into French and facilitators were Francophone
  - Indigenous group: ensured workshop was culturally relevant
  - Offered a gift to the young workshop organizer, following cultural protocols

PART II – WHAT WE LEARNED

- Prioritized domains and themes, and identified potential measures
- More similarities than differences

> "That youth are diverse in thought but at the core, we all have the same issues that affect us."
>
> Youth workshop participant

- Identified things we weren't considering and highlighted the need to find new ways to measure well-being
- Reaffirmed importance of talking to and involving young people!

> "I'll make a voice for myself."
>
> Youth workshop participant

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PART II – PRIORITIZED DOMAINS

1) Health (34.5%)
2) Relatedness (18.2%)
3) Equity (12.8%)
4) Education and employment (12.3%)
4) Youth engagement (12.3%)
6) Affordable living conditions (6.7%)
7) Space and environment (3.3%)

PART II – IMPORTANT THEMES

1) Mental Health
2) Youth activities
3) Inclusive education
4) Physical health
5) Discrimination
6) Belonging
7) Access to appropriate healthcare
8) Friendship
9) Permanent, caring relationships with one or more adults
10) Respect

> "I've learned that youth struggle with more than just mental health, school and money."
>
> Youth workshop participant

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NEXT STEPS

- **Use findings to inform CY-INDEX process**

- **Additional feedback**
  - Fall 2017: 4 workshops with youth across Canada
    - Whitehorse, YK
    - Kitchener, ON
    - Toronto, ON
    - Manawan, QC

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YOUTH VOICE – FALL 2017

Q: Which pairing has the highest ranking measures, as voted on by youth in the Spaces and Environment domain?

A) Awareness of environmental problems; Access to public facilities/resources

B) Public transportation; Access to spaces/places that are welcoming/supportive/inclusive

C) Satisfaction with local area; Access to open space and natural environment

D) Water quality; Air quality

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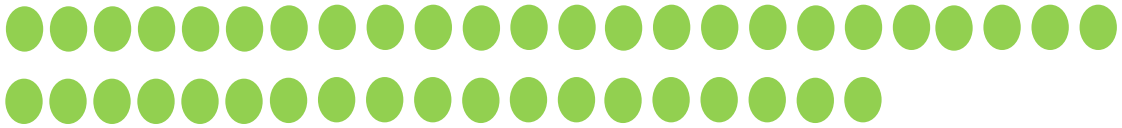
YOUTH VOICE – FALL 2017

1) Water quality
2) Air quality

3) Public transportation
4) Access to spaces that are welcoming

5) Aware of env't problems
6) Access to public facilities

7) Satisfied with local area
8) Access to open space and natural env't



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INTERESTING NOTES

- Understand how to communicate the index to young people
  - Some voted against measures because they had a negative association with it
  - Need to consider their perception of the index
- Many similarities, but there are differences among different communities
- More interested in qualitative information – the ‘why’
- Divergence between ‘experts’ and young people

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"Being in this youth meeting connecting with their young people made me feel a sense of hope, there are so many bright young minds that can do a lot to bring progress."

Youth workshop participant

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Thank You

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