

Child Welfare League of Canada
Ligue pour le bien-être de l'enfance du Canada

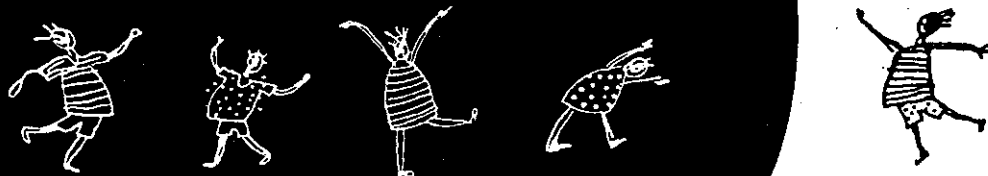
Canada's Children...

Les enfants du Canada

Summer/Été 2000

**Child Welfare Research
in Canada**

**La recherche en bien-être de
l'enfance au Canada**





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Canada's Children

Volume 7, Number 2
Summer 2000

Published by the
Child Welfare League of Canada

Editor
Susan Sullivan

Translation
SODES

Layout: In Other Words

Canada's Children is published three times a year by the Child Welfare League of Canada, a national voluntary organization dedicated to promoting the well-being of at-risk children, youth and their families. Articles are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the CWLC. Letters to the editor should be addressed to:

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Les enfants du Canada

Volume 7, Numéro 2
été 2000

Publié par la
Ligue pour le bien-être de l'enfance
du Canada

Rédactrice
Susan Sullivan

Traduction
SODES

Mise en page: In Other Words

Les enfants du Canada est publié trois fois par an par la Ligue pour le bien-être de l'enfance du Canada, organisme bénévole national se consacrant à la promotion du bien-être des enfants et des jeunes à risque ainsi qu'à leurs familles. Les articles sont la responsabilité des auteurs et ne reflètent pas nécessairement les opinions de la LBEC. Vous pouvez faire parvenir vos lettres au rédacteur:

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ISSN 1201-0561

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**ECOLOGICAL
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We welcome submissions for our next issue of *Canada's Children*. If you have a story idea or article of interest, please contact the CWLC office or email: info@cwlc.ca. The copy deadline for the next issue is October 16, 2000.

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**APPROCHES
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La date de tombée pour soumettre un article est le 16 octobre 2000.

Psychiatrist was Canada's most passionate advocate for troubled youngsters

BY MICHAEL VALPY

(The following appeared in The Globe and Mail on Tuesday, May 30, 2000 and is reprinted with permission.)

Paul D. Steinhauer, described by colleagues yesterday as the heart, soul and conscience of child psychiatry in Canada, died in May, 2000 of complications resulting from surgery for cancer.

Dr. Steinhauer, 67, an intense and self-effacing man, was widely considered the country's most effective and passionate advocate for troubled and vulnerable children. It was a public advocacy to which he devoted the last decade of his career.

After a professional lifetime spent working with youngsters with behavioural problems and mental illnesses in institutions such as Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children and with child-welfare agencies across southern Ontario, he concluded that Canadian society undervalued its children, especially the least and most fragile of them.

He launched, with the relentlessness and prodigious energy that were his identifying traits, a campaign to bring

these children to the nation's attention. "He wanted every child in Canada to have the same opportunity as his own children had," said psychiatrist Arlette Lefebvre, his friend, colleague and former student at Hospital for Sick Children.

Dr. Susan Bradley, recently retired a head of the division of child psychiatry at University of Toronto, said: "Probably nobody else in Canada has played the role he has for children's mental health. Probably no one is comparable to him in North America."

She was echoed by Dr. Simon Davidson of Ottawa, president of the Canadian Academy of Child Psychiatry, who said Dr. Steinhauer influenced governments and had the respect of mental-health professionals from coast to coast.

As director of postgraduate training in child psychiatry at University of Toronto for nearly 20 years, he had a profound influence on the education of child psychiatrists in Canada. He urged them to compensate for the underfunding of child mental-health services in

Canada by getting out of their offices and working as community consultants, enhancing the skills of school teachers and public-health and child welfare workers.

Following his own advice, he personally trained hundreds of child-welfare workers across Ontario in understanding abuse and neglect. He designed a parenting capacity-assessment tool that relieved both the courts and children's aid caseworkers of much of the uncertainty in determining whether children's should be removed from their homes.

Bruce Rivers, executive director of Toronto's Children's Aid Society, said the tool is now used across the country. "He has made a huge contribution. His work has been ground-breaking. He trained me 25 years ago. He's trained pretty much every worker here."

Dr. Steinhauer broke new ground in foster parenting—he was a foster parent himself—in educating child-welfare agencies about children's bonds of attachment to their caregivers and the damage that could be done to their psychological and emotional development by bouncing them from foster home to foster home, a practice once closer to the norm than to the exception.

He played a leading role in developing a highly successful mental-health treatment model at Toronto's Ryerson Community School, an overcrowded, multi-ethnic, multi-problem school in one the city's poorest neighbourhoods.

Mary McConville, executive director of Toronto's Catholic Children's Aid Society, said: "His work has become foundational to child-welfare training. I'll miss him enormously. I can't imagine not having him there to turn to."

Dr. Steinhauer formed the Sparrow Lake Alliance, bringing together top

PAUL STEINHAUER'S LEGACY

BY PETER DUDDING

The Child Welfare League of Canada lost a great friend when Dr. Paul Steinhauer died this spring. More importantly, the children of Canada lost a tireless and devoted champion. At the time of Paul's death, he was working closely with us and others on the development of the Canadian Child Welfare Centre of Excellence, as well as other initiatives to support and strengthen child welfare and children's services in this country. He also encouraged and contributed to establishing the CWLC's National Teleconferences and generously shared his knowledge, experience and concern for children. Paul will continue to influence me personally and thousands of others who work on behalf of children in Canada. He will be sorely missed but his legacy will endure. ☸

Peter Dudding is the Executive Director of the Child Welfare League of Canada.