

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD CELEBRATION

SUDBURY ON, October 6, 2016 – On the initiative of Centre Victoria pour femmes, Laurentian University and the University of Sudbury will welcome, on October 13, some 150 grade 9 girls to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child. Games and awareness activities have been created around main themes such as self-esteem, difference, and emancipation.

This day will contribute to improving the lives of girls not only as citizens but also as agents of change in their family, their community and society as a whole. Event activities will take place next Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., **in the Arts Building** of Laurentian University. **There will be opportunities for photos and interviews from 9:45 to 10:15 a.m.**

The initiative is a collaboration of the Centre Victoria pour femmes, the Office of Francophone Affairs at Laurentian University, the Collège Boréal, and 6 northern Ontario's French-language school boards.

About the International Day of the Girl Child

On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare 11 October as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. The fulfilment of girls' right to education is first and foremost an obligation and moral imperative. There is also overwhelming evidence that girls' education is a powerful transformative force for societies and girls themselves: it is the one consistent positive determinant of practically every desired development outcome, from reductions in mortality and fertility, to poverty reduction and equitable growth, to social norm change and democratization.

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Sophia Bagaoui-Fradette
Advisor
Strategic communications
Office of Francophone Affairs, Laurentian University
705-675-1151, ext. 3393
sbagaouifradette@laurentian.ca

Mireille Charlebois
Agente
Communications
Centre Victoria pour femmes
705.670.2517, ext. 2226
mireille.charlebois@centrevictoria.ca

About the Centre Victoria pour femmes

Using a Feminist approach, the Centre Victoria pour femmes offers French speaking women a variety of support services to prevent and end all forms of violence against women. Services are mainly offered to French speaking women of 16 years and up in the Greater Sudbury and Algoma regions.

About Laurentian University

Laurentian University is one of the fastest growing universities in Canada in the past decade, now serving more than 9,000 students, offering nearly 40 French programs and more than 800 course sections to 1,600 francophone and francophile students. In addition to its main campus in Sudbury, it now offers a growing number of programs in Barrie to the student body on that campus. With excellent programs and faculty, enviable class sizes and quality facilities, Laurentian has become a destination of choice for university studies in Ontario. For more information on Laurentian University, visit www.laurentian.ca.