

# Book Reviews

**Heather Berkeley, Chad Gaffield and W. Gordon West, eds.**  
**CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: Legal and Educational Issues.**  
**Toronto: Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 1978.**  
**177 pp. \$7.25 paper.**

Children's rights, the subject of this brief symposium series from the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, is a well-publicized issue, highlighted especially in 1979 through world recognition in the form of an international year of the child. It is equally fitting that OISE undertook this work, since one of its primary aims is "to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas about education." In twelve articles this book attempts to provide information about the legal and educational rights of children in Canada. Although it is directed to no specific audience, the topics are of general interest to individuals who work with children and of particular interest to those of us who are often called upon in a child-advocate capacity.

*Children's Rights* includes a general overview consisting of two articles: one outlines the status of children within the Canadian context, while the other is concerned with the development of child advocacy in the United States. The basic premise of these articles is the subordinate status of children, politically, economically, biologically, and legally. Both articles touch briefly upon historical antecedents and events which have shaped our perception of children. Contrasts between Canadian and U.S. traditions are drawn, but with too little emphasis, particularly in the second article.

Subsequently, three articles are devoted to legal issues. The first paper is a scholarly review of new and old themes in Canadian juvenile justice; it is richly documented with a social-historical perspective and contains some amusing reports of attitudes prevalent in the early twentieth century. The remaining two articles provide useful information (including statistics) on the plight of children in conflict with the law in Ontario. In view of provincial jurisdiction on non-

criminal matters involving children, these articles are of limited value, even for comparison purposes, to readers from other provinces governed by different sets of laws. Québec, for example, recently passed legislation in the form of a Youth Protection Act (Bill 24), which alters the course of action legally and socially for children in this province, and for the first time in Québec enshrines children's rights into law.

The final section on educational issues contains seven articles loosely arranged around questions of students' rights, punishment and school discipline, and ethnic and intellectual rights. Unfortunately, the articles are not well integrated and vary widely in quality and scope. However, they are likely to have individual appeal to educators and to other professionals involved in educational policy issues.

The need for this type of book is obvious, and it could be considered as supplementary reading for courses in education policy or social work. *Children's Rights* whets the appetite, but it fails to provide a very comprehensive look at the problem; despite contributions from several authors across Canada and a few from the US, there remains too little recognition of the educational and legal diversity that exists within the Canadian context. In this respect it reflects only a beginning.

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- Roger Lajoie.**  
**NOTRE FORÊT.**  
McGraw Hill, Montréal, 1978.  
96 pp. \$4.75.
- L. Beauregard/H. Haydock.**  
**LE PORT DE MONTRÉAL.**  
McGraw Hill, Montréal, 1978.  
112 pp. \$4.75.
- J. Bradley/A. Provencher.**  
**LES ÎLES DE LA MADELEINE.**  
McGraw Hill, Montréal, 1978.  
96 pp. \$4.95.
- José Mello.**  
**FORT-CHIMO.**  
McGraw Hill, Montréal, 1978.  
71 pp. \$3.95.

Les quatre livrets, *Notre forêt*, *Le port de Montréal*, *Les îles de la Madeleine*, *Fort Chimo*, édités sous la direction de L. Beauregard et publiés aux