

SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY

- We released 48 investigative reviews for young people who had passed away or been seriously injured.
- Work began this year on our next special report, focused on youth houselessness.

2024-2025 Recommendations

This year, five new recommendations were made to government through Calling for Change: Investigative Reviews Consolidated Report 2023-2024, released in November 2024.

JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION

We opened a ceremonial room within our Edmonton office. This space now offers staff and visitors a place for grounding, cultural connection, and healing.



“My advocate taught me how to effectively talk about what I was looking for from my caseworker.”

– Young Person

READ THE FULL ANNUAL REPORT:
ocya.alberta.ca/reports



2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT Highlights

The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA) helps young people involved in the child intervention and youth justice systems to understand and exercise their rights. We also educate the public about children’s rights, investigate the serious injuries and deaths of young people, and make recommendations to public bodies.

INTAKE

Our intake team is often the first step in connecting young people with advocacy support.

3,807
intakes completed

INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY

We released our updated Individual Advocacy Services policy manual, replacing the previous version that had been in place for over a decade.

1,592
young people worked
with an advocate

LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

This year, we welcomed one additional Indigenous lawyer and one new roster lawyer from a remote community.

3,134
young people worked
with a lawyer

STANDING UP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

An unwavering commitment to young people is at the heart of our work and extends beyond any single role or team.

Experiences of young people who received advocacy services

14-year-old Konrad had been unhoused since he was 12 years old and had been living in a shelter for the past year. An advocate helped Konrad prepare to talk about his experiences with Child Intervention staff. Konrad is now receiving supports.

17-year-old Mitchell felt he had been unfairly treated after being pepper-sprayed by staff in a youth justice facility. An advocate supported him through the review process and collaborated with facility staff to address the issue. Although Mitchell did not get the outcome he hoped for, he felt heard and satisfied with the process.

“I had an amazing lawyer who helped me get access to my family.
My lawyer went above and beyond.

– Young Person



ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Our education and engagement work is a vital link between the OCYA and the young people, services, and communities who support them.

New Children & Youth Rights handbooks



ocya.alberta.ca/resources

Launched “This is Me”
video recognizing
National Child Day.

158
presentations, workshops,
booths, and events



“Growing up in care, I felt as if I never truly had a voice.
The OCYA taught me my voice exists and it’s valuable.”

– Youth Council Member

Self-advocacy toolkit

SELF
ADVOCACY
SERIES

bit.ly/self-advocacy-videos

A youth-led self-advocacy initiative aimed at empowering their peers involved in the child intervention and youth justice systems.