**Canadian Recommendations – UPR 17**

**October 28, 2013**

**Belize**

**Question**

In 2009, Belize agreed to implement recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to prioritize effective measures to reduce poverty amongst indigenous and minority children. Could the Delegation of Belize inform us of their plans to increase the number of households/persons aided by the BOOST and Food Pantry Programs beyond the current level of 17% of the poor population?

**Recommendations**

Canada recommends that Belize:

1. Take measures to actively track the implementation and results of the Domestic Violence Act and the National Gender-based Violence Action Plan and to publically report on these efforts to reduce violence, especially against women and girls.
2. Take steps to reduce the incidence of child, early and forced marriage, including by amending legislation where necessary to bring it into conformity with international obligations.
3. Ensure its Criminal Code provisions do not criminalize individuals based on sexual orientation.

**Observations (if time allows):**

We welcome the improvement in the process for reporting and follow-up on the investigation and penalties related to offenses by police officers and encourage Belize to continue to strengthen this system.

We encourage Belize to take concrete steps towards improving access to pre-school and secondary education as a means of reducing poverty and crime, and encouraging human potential in the country.