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## **Kentville Plays: Embracing Article 31**

**KENTVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA** – Kentville’s Department of Parks and Recreation is launching a new initiative called “Kentville Plays!” in response to article 31 of the UN Charter on the rights of a child that states that every child has the right to play. “Play is not just about providing safe playgrounds for children” explains Parks and Recreation Director Rachel Bedingfield “It is fundamentally about protecting their right to be free to explore and discover the physical and social world around them on their own terms, without formal structure.”

In 1954 the United Nations declared November 20<sup>th</sup> as Universal Children’s Day to, among other things, improve children’s welfare. To commemorate this day, and to launch the new *Kentville Plays* initiative, the Parks and Recreation Department is hosting an event at the Kentville Fire Hall that is designed for families and members of the community to play, and to engage in conversation about how we can bring more play to our community.

“We’ll have several really fun play stations set up for kids, families and community members. From moon sand to fort building, loose parts to volcanos- they’ll be something for every child and child at heart!” says Julia Stephenson, Active Living Community Coordinator. “We’ll also be engaging with children and adults to explore the larger initiative of Kentville Plays! which is all about how we can become a more playful Town, how we can make free play an easy choice and how we can support play with tools like community Play Boxes.”

“We’re going to play together as families, as community, as people who value the health and wellbeing of our children.” Says Director Bedingfield “Our goal is to become Canada’s most playful community; one that takes play – and all of its benefits - very seriously.”

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