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A group of children from Attawapiskat are taking the fight for a school to the United Nations.

The youth have sent notice to the federal government, letting them know they intend to send a report to the U. N. detailing Indian and Northern Affairs' failure to build a school. It will be addressed in the upcoming review of Canada's obligations under the Conventions on the Rights of the Child.

"We want what every other kid takes

for granted, we want a new school," said Shannen Koostachin, 14.

"The education authority is putting together a report to show we've been denied rights," she said, during a conference call with the Daily Press.

The community was promised a new school several times since 2000, when parents pulled their children out of the classrooms because the contaminated ground was making students and teachers sick.

The illnesses stemmed from a diesel spill which occurred in 1979 and was never cleaned by the government.

"We're putting together a team to create a document showing how we're being discriminated against," said Chris Kataquapit, 13.

"We'll use it to prove we've been denied our basic rights," added Jonah Sutherland, also 13.

"There isn't a non-native community that would be denied a school the way we've been denied one," said Serena Koostachin, 16.

"We've had students who have dropped out in Grade 5 because they've lost hope. We are tired of being denied these rights."