

October 31, 2016



The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing on behalf of the National Union of Public and General Employees to urge your government to comply with the ruling of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal on the delivery of child welfare services on reserves. This is an issue that my union, and a number of its Components, have followed closely from the beginning.

In 2007, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations filed a complaint against the federal government on the grounds that child welfare services provided to on-reserve First Nations children and families were inequitable and discriminatory and thus violated the Canadian Human Rights Act. The matter was referred to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal which began hearing evidence in 2013.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, on January 26, 2016, ruled that First Nations children were indeed being discriminated against. Since the ruling was issued, your government has received two compliance orders on the matter.

My union strongly welcomed the promise your government made to address many of the widespread and systemic problems confronting First Nations and Indigenous people in Canada. It is essential that these issues, and the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, be acted on now.

On November 1, 2016 a motion will be before the Parliament of Canada calling for action to end the discrimination against First Nations children by:

- a) immediately investing an additional \$155 million in new funding for the delivery of child welfare that has been identified as the shortfall this year alone, and establishing a funding plan for future years that will end the systemic shortfalls in First Nations child welfare;

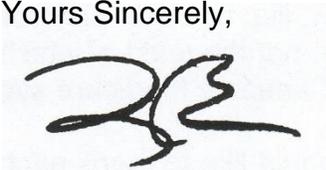
- b) implementing the full definition of Jordan's Principle as outlined in a resolution passed by the House on December 12, 2007;
- c) fully complying with all orders made by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and committing to stop fighting Indigenous families in court who are seeking access to services covered by the federal government, and;
- d) making public all pertinent documents related to the overhaul of child welfare and the implementation of Jordan's Principle.

I am urging you and your government to support this motion.

This is a matter that requires urgent and immediate action. It has been almost a decade since the complaint was first brought forward. The situation has not improved over the course of time. Indeed, it has worsened!

Canada must act to address the historical wrongs that have been perpetrated against Indigenous people. Furthermore, we must act to stop the continued discrimination that exists.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LB', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Larry Brown  
President

Cc: Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance  
Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs  
Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
National Executive Board