

House of Commons

Room 649D Centre Block
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel: (613) 992-2919
Fax: (613) 995-0747



Chambre des communes

Piece 649D, Édifice du Centre
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel: (613) 992-2919
Fax: (613) 995-0747

Charlie Angus

Member of Parliament for Timmins - James Bay
Député de Timmins - Baie James

Timmins

202-60 Wilson Avenue
Timmins, ON P4N 2S7
Tel: (705) 268-6464
Fax: (705) 268-6460

Kirkland Lake

201-30 Second Street
Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 3H7
Tel: (705) 567-2747
Fax: (705) 567-5232

Jody Wilson-Raybould
Attorney General of Canada
Centre Block Room 451S
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Jan 21st 2015

RE: Newfoundland and Labrador Residential School Survivors

Minister Wilson-Raybould,

When we spoke in the House before Christmas I asked if your department would live up to Prime Minister Trudeau's commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and end the litigation strategy against Newfoundland and Labrador residential school survivors. I didn't hear a clear answer. I must say I was disappointed to learn that lawyers in your department are continuing to fight these survivors in court.

I understand that your government has stated that it might look at other options. Meanwhile the court battle continues. This hardly meets the TRC call to end the government strategy of delay and litigation.

As it stands now, the strategy adopted by your department will drag this case out adding to the legal costs of some of the most marginalized individuals who are least able to afford it. It will delay justice and reconciliation for Survivors, some of whom may never receive it as they are passing away. And what will happen if the entire IRSSA process has closed down, but the court rules in favor of these survivors?

Regardless of how the court ends up ruling, it appears to me, that refusing to settle the matter will be contrary to statements and be breaking commitments made by yourself, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs before, during, and after the election.

I am sure that you will agree that in the matter of reconciliation with those who were victimized by the residential schools that words are not good enough. Action is required. Therefore I ask how continuing to fight the survivors in court fits within the Prime Minister's clear promise made to survivors? Will you intervene into this matter?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'C. Angus'.

Charlie Angus, Member of Parliament
Timmins - James Bay