

House of Commons

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The Hon. Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Indigenous-Crown Relations and Northern Affairs
10 Wellington St., Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

The Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
DOJ Headquarters, 284 Wellington St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0H8

December 8, 2017

Re: Revictimizing Tactics Against St. Anne's Survivors

Dear Ministers,

I am writing you regarding a disturbing escalation in the tactics being employed to silence survivors of St. Anne's residential school. I have reached out to you on numerous times asking you to look into the suppression of evidence regarding horrific levels of abuse at St. Anne's. Yet your lawyers have continued to attempt to overturn rulings that have been re-adjudicated because of the decision to withhold key evidence from the IAP.

I note that your officials have taken positions that force St. Anne's survivor Angela Shisheesh to act as a witness in support of claimants who suffered sexual assault as children. Your officials have taken the position that her in-person witness testimony is required again, to be used by IAP hearing adjudicators. Your lawyers already tested her in civil actions over ten years ago. This is revictimization as intimidation to deny justice to other victims whom Canada has already failed.

I remind you that Ms. Shisheesh's testimony would not have been required in the IAP had Canada not chosen to suppress the evidence gathered by the OPP and generated in the civil actions that verified the crimes against the children of St. Anne's. And even when this evidence was supplied, your officials took the extraordinary step of stating that

police documentation, witness statements to the police, and the civil pleadings were inadmissible unless a witness could be brought forward to be “tested” at the hearings.

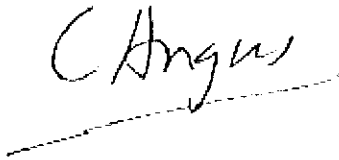
Your officials have also stated that in order to have her witness testimony deposited with the National Commission of Truth and Reconciliation, Madame Shisheesh must obtain the consent from the two defendants – Canada and the Catholic Church.

This level of what seems to be deliberate, considered malevolence and vindictiveness on the government’s part is truly shocking to me.

Horrible crimes were committed against generations of children at St. Anne’s residential school because of the deliberate collusion of the Department of Indian Affairs, the Justice Department and the Catholic Church. It is unconscionable that you would use the intimidating power of the Catholic Church against Ms. Shisheesh rather than standing with her in the pursuit of justice and reconciliation.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Angus". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a dashed line.

Charlie Angus, MP
Timmins—James Bay

- CC. Madame Angela Shisheesh
- Edmund Metatawabin, Peetabeck Keway Keykaywin Association
- Grand Chief Perry Bellegarde, Assembly of First Nations
- Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Chief Isadore Day, Chiefs of Ontario
- Grand Chief Jonathon Solomon, Mushkegowuk Council
- Chief Andrew Solomon, Fort Albany First Nation
- Chief Ignace Gull, Attawapiskat First Nation
- Chief Leo Friday Kashechewan First Nation
- Chief Edmund Hunter, Peawanuck First Nation
- Chief Patricia Faries, Moose Cree First Nation
- Chief Allan Joly MoCreebec
- MP Romeo Saganash
- Ry Moran, Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Senator Murray Sinclair
- Karen Manarin, Law Society of Upper Canada