

House of Commons

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Charlie Angus

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Speaker Geoff Regan
Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons
Centre Block, Rm. 224-N

May 3rd, 2018

Re: Papal Apology

Dear Speaker Regan,

I am writing to you in the aftermath of the motion passed on Tuesday, May 1st, with the approval of the vast majority of the House, to discuss the next steps that need to be taken.

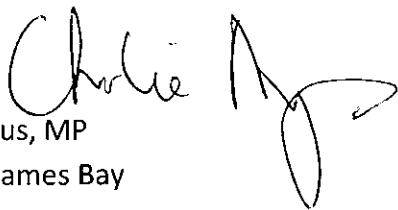
This motion transcends the partisan realities of the ordinary process of government. It is not about the politics of the day, but about who we want to be as a country, and how serious we are as representatives of Canadians from coast to coast to coast about making reconciliation with Indigenous peoples a reality.

The House has voted to invite His Holiness the Pope to join Canadians on our national journey towards reconciliation, and to exhort the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to show moral leadership by resuming best-effort fundraising to pay for healing programs for survivors of residential schools and their communities, as well as turning over documents whenever called upon by families and scholars so that we can have a more fulsome public understanding of the horrors of the residential school system.

I ask that you write to His Holiness Pope Francis and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to inform them of the will of the House in the matter voted upon and to ask them to consider an appropriate response.

As this vote expressed the will of Parliament and not the particular policy of the government of the day, I believe that this message will be most effective coming from you, as the custodian of Parliament's traditions and the collective voice of its members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Angus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Charlie Angus, MP
Timmins—James Bay