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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

The Honorable Rona Ambrose
Minister of Health
East Block Room 163
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

August 28 2014

RE: Health Crisis in Attawapiskat

Dear Minister Ambrose,

I am writing to you regarding the letter dated July 9th 2014 on the health crisis in Attawapiskat. I believe you would agree that this is a matter of urgency.

As the letter noted, mental health problems in Attawapiskat, as in many First Nations communities are persistent and complex. They are rooted in generational issues and difficult circumstances. We must do more to ensure that we provide services that are flexible enough that they can properly meet the unique needs of many of these communities.

We cannot wait for the number of suicides to escalate nor can we wait for a crisis to be officially declared. There is a lot more that we must do. We must find models that properly address the health care – specifically mental health- needs of the community. I look forward to hearing from you on how we can work together on improving the situation in Attawapiskat.

Sincerely,

Charlie Angus
MP Timmins-James Bay