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November 14th 2014

Dear Commissioner,

This is a complaint submission under the *Access to Information Act*. Mr. Angus office recently submitted an additional access to information request to the Department of Justice again requesting documents in relation to the government's decision to suppress evidence from the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) relating to crimes at Anne's Residential School.

This past February, the Ontario Superior Court ruled that the federal government had a legal obligation to supply this evidence to the plaintiffs and their lawyers as part of the Residential School Agreement. Having heard from survivors of St. Anne's Residential School, our office finds that they are very concerned that the political decision to suppress this evidence has put in question the role of the IAP.

The government has still yet to explain or justify why or how these decisions were made. These are questions that must be answered.

In our previous request, the department extended our first access to information request by 601 days. The department has extended our most recent access to information request by 815 days.

Both of these extensions are beyond the end date of the Truth and Reconciliation Process. This will mean that survivors, who believe their legal rights have been compromised, will have no answers while the IAP is still adjudicating individual cases.

I fear that the decision to withhold these documents for up to three years may be part of a larger pattern of obstruction of documents that has been raised by Justice Perrell of the Ontario Superior Court.

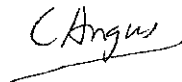
Departmental delays appear to be getting worse, extensions appear to be longer, and material seems to be cited as excluded more often. While I found your report on political interference into the access to information system at PWGSC disconcerting, I wonder if there is not more than one possible type of political interference into the system. It appears that starving the system of funds amidst a culture of secrecy appears to be an effective method to deteriorate an individual's right to access information and thereby limit government accountability. Pushing the release of documents beyond their political utility whether through direct action or through a broken system, it has the same end result.

Therefore I ask you to look into this complaint.

- a. Government Institution: Department of Justice
- b. Date of original request: August 28 2014
- c. Subject Matter: *"All communications or correspondence, briefs, and memos at the department of justice including but not limited to emails both internal and external regarding the adjudication process for St. Anne's Residential School and the disclosure of documentation related to the ruling by the Ontario Superior Court Hearing on St. Anne's from March 7, 2014 to August 31 2014"*
- d. Date of Institution's response: October 6 2014
- e. My file number:
- f. Institution control number: A-2014-00753
- g. Object of complaint: Unreasonable extension of an additional 815 days

I would ask you to investigate this complaint.

Sincerely,



Charlie Angus
MP Timmins-James Bay