

House of Commons

Room 265, Wellington Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel.: (613) 992-2919
Fax: (613) 995-0747

**Chambre des communes**

Piece 265, Édifice Wellington
Ottawa (ON) K1A 0A6
Tel.: (613) 992-2919
Fax: (613) 995-0747

Timmins

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

Charlie Angus

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

Kirkland Lake

103A-30 Second Street
Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 3H7
Tel.: (705) 567-2747
Fax: (705) 567-5232

Jean-Denis Fréchette
Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer
Suite 919
50 O'Connor St, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A9

January 25, 2018

Re: Costing of Inequalities in the Child and Family Services Program

Dear Mr. Fréchette,

We are writing to you today to request that your office undertake a study to determine the gap in funding between the Child and Family Services Program offered by (historically) Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and comparable services offered by provinces and territories.

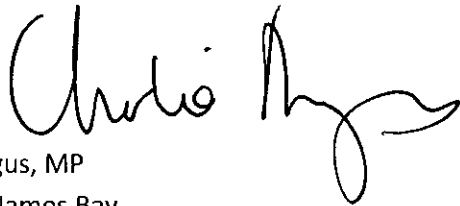
In February of 2007, the AFN and First Nations Child and Family Caring Society filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission on the matter of inequities in the First Nations Child and Family Services Program. The Commission forwarded the complaint to the Human Rights Tribunal in September, shortly after the release of the 2008 AG Report in May. The litigation process was very long, and the CHRT finally ruled in January of 2016.

The Tribunal found that the CFS Program was discriminatory and offered Indigenous children inferior services than what non-Indigenous children received from the provinces. Since then, the Tribunal has issued three non-compliance orders since January 2016, with a fourth expected imminently.

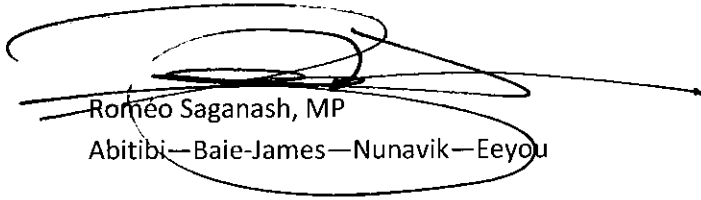
The Minister of Indigenous Services, the Honourable Jane Philpott, has recognized the weaknesses of this program and has convened an emergency conference to address them. While we are pleased that the Minister appears to take the task of ending discrimination seriously, we believe that the government must be held accountable, which is why we are writing to you. The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society has put forward the comprehensive Spirit Bear Plan to end inequalities in government services for Indigenous children and families. The Plan has been endorsed by the Assembly of First Nations and other civil society groups.

The Spirit Bear Plan calls on Parliament to request from your office a financial and budgetary analysis of the inequalities in services. Your office has conducted excellent studies on water and wastewater services as well as education. We are taking action as part of our obligation to work towards reconciliation and justice by asking that you do the same for the Child and Family Services program, so that Canadians and Indigenous peoples will know what must be done to close the gap and end the discrimination against Indigenous children and families.

Sincerely,



Charlie Angus, MP
Timmins—James Bay



Romeo Saganash, MP
Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou