



July 17, 2008

Dear Colleagues

As you know, Investigators for the Canadian Human Rights Commission have completed a report which recommends that the Canadian Human Rights Commissioners formally accept jurisdiction for the complaint filed by the Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada respecting the under-funding of First Nations child welfare services on reserves. The report further recommends that the matter be referred to tribunal for a determination as to whether the federal funding formula for First Nations child and family services is in fact discriminatory.

INAC has refused mediation of the complaint on two occasions and has repeatedly questioned the jurisdiction of the Canadian Human Rights Commission to hear the complaint. One of the grounds upon which INAC has objected is that they question the support First Nations child and family service agencies (FNCFSA) have for the Human Rights action in light of the regional negotiations strategy INAC has undertaken. I am writing to ask that individual agencies and your regional organizations write letters to the National Chief and carbon copied to the Canadian Human Rights Commission and our organization indicating your support for the human rights action to support equitable child welfare funding for FNCFSA across Canada. Although the Canadian Human Rights Commission investigator has not found reasonable grounds for INAC's concerns, having letters of support from you will help bolster the already strong, and unanimous, resolution by the Chiefs in Assembly at AFN for the child welfare Human Rights case. Several First Nations have already passed resolutions/motions in support of the Human Rights action and the numbers are building quickly.

In addition, we have been advised that we will need about \$30,000 in legal fees and will probably need an additional \$20,000 for other costs relating to the Human Rights complaint – donations from First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies, First Nations and other supporters are warmly welcomed and needed.

The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations have already contributed significant amounts of our own source revenue to pay expenses relating to the complaint so your contributions would really assist us in our efforts to ensure that First Nations child and family service agencies receive equitable levels of funding to provide culturally based child and family services. Donations can be made on line at [www.fncaringsociety.com](http://www.fncaringsociety.com) ( go to the home page and you will see the Donate Now button on the left hand side)or by sending checks or money orders payable to the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada .

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Regards

Cindy Blackstock,  
Executive Director,  
FNCFCS