

First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies Directors Forum

Secretariat Support Care of: Caring for First Nations Children Society
7728 Tetayut Rd, Saanichton, BC V8M 2E4

September 19, 2007

Honourable Tom Christensen
Minister of Children and Family Development
PO Box 9057
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC
V8W 9E2

To The Honourable Tom Christensen;

The First Nations Child and Family Services Directors Forum (the Forum), which represents 156 First Nations and the Nisga'a Lisims Government communities, have reviewed the drafting instructions of the Aboriginal Authorities Act. Consequently, by formal resolution, the Forum strongly rejects the drafting instructions for the Aboriginal Authorities Act and opposes the regionalization process. The Nations that we represent have an inherent right to care for their own children and families; and this proposed legislation clearly negates that fundamental right.

The failure of the Regional Aboriginal Planning Committees and Interim Authorities to engage in meaningful consultation with our communities, and the misrepresentation of the involvement of the First Nations Delegated Agency Directors has grievously flawed the consultation process. Therefore, the Forum strongly requests a public inquiry into the process to date. The Forum also hereby requests a meeting with yourself and the Leadership Council, to provide a formal opportunity to voice our position and specific concerns.

Further, as the Forum provides technical advice regarding child and family services to our respective governance structures, this letter will be brought to the immediate attention of the Chiefs we represent.

Respectfully,


Executive Director


Agency


Executive Director

Haida Child + Family Services.
Agency


Executive Director


Knuwentaeww Society
Agency


Executive Director

Heiltsuk Kaxla Child + Family Services
Agency


Executive Director

Dezui De Yunuyeh. Child Family
Agency


Executive Director

Kalunuk (Smuneeem)
Agency


Executive Director

Ktonaxa Kinkasket
Agency


Executive Director

Nisga'a Child + Family
Agency


Executive Director


Secwepem Child + Family
Agency


Executive Director

Kwumat Lelum C&FS
Agency


Executive Director

Kwakwaka'wakw CFS 'Namgis First Nation
Agency


Executive Director

Gitksan Child & Family Services Society
Agency


Executive Director

JANEX Child & Family SERVICES
Agency


Executive Director

NILTUO Child & Family Services.
Agency

Hon. Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia

Grand Chief Stewart Philip
Union of BC Indian Chiefs

Grand Chief Ed John
First Nations Summit

Regional Chief Shawn Atleo
BC Region Assembly of First Nations

Bruce Dumont, President
Métis Nation British Columbia

Hon. Charles Strahl
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

Carol James, MLA
Leader of the Opposition

Nicholas Simons, MLA
Critic for Children and Family Development

Mary Ellen Turpell-Lafond
Representative for Children and Youth

Linda Lucas, Executive Director
Caring for First Nations Children Society