

_____, 2009

The Honourable Chuck Strahl
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Sir:

The flawed and inequitable funding formula for First Nations child and family services cannot continue.

As noted in the *Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts*, continuing to use a flawed funding formula means that First Nations child and family services agencies are often underfunded, and First Nations children and their families do not receive the services that they need. Instead, First Nations children are much more likely to enter into and stay in care, and their families are not given the full range of support services to help them provide a safe environment for their children. This situation is not tenable. The Committee sincerely hopes that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) will take prompt action to ensure that First Nations children are provided appropriate and adequate services in a manner that treats them equitably with all other Canadian children.

The lengthy delays and bureaucratic red-tape of the current approaches to resolving the inequities of the funding formula perpetuates this intolerable situation. Despite these current efforts in finding a long term sustainable funding approach, children, families, communities and Nations continue to suffer. I urge you to take immediate action to address this inequality now.

Respectfully yours,

Signature & Name

Address

City, Province

Postal Code