

May 12, 2016

Special Committee to Appoint a Representative for Children and Youth
c/o Parliamentary Committees Office
Room 224
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Attn: Chair Don McRae, MLA for Comox Valley, and
Deputy Chair Michelle Mungall, MLA for Nelson-Creston

Dear Mr. McRae & Ms. Mungall;

Re: Job Posting – Representative for Children and Youth

Our Board of Directors reviewed the job posting for the BC Representative for Children and Youth and we were disappointed to find no qualification or requirement that applicants have expert knowledge of the history and experiences of Aboriginal families with the child welfare system.

As you know more than 60 percent of the children and youth in care in BC are Aboriginal and that number is growing. The current Representative has opened more than 15,000 advocacy cases, many of them involving Aboriginal children and youth. Dr. Turpel-Lafond works closely with Aboriginal families, communities and organizations in her work to support children and youth and the new Representative will require extensive and similar expertise to carry out their duties effectively.

British Columbians will rightly expect that the new Representative will work across the province to ensure equality of treatment and skillful advocacy for Aboriginal children and youth.

We trust that you will consider our comments as your committee determines which applicant to recommend to the Legislature.

Sincerely,



Michael Crawford, RSW
President, BC Association of Social Workers



Carol Ross, MSW
Child Welfare Lead, BC Association of Social Workers

cc. Dr. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond
BC Representative for Children and Youth
Suite 400, 1019 Wharf Street
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