

THE HONOURABLE KIM PATE
SENATOR – ONTARIO



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SÉNATRICE – ONTARIO

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CANADA

Message for Have a Heart Day for First Nations Children
Caring Society
14 February 2020

Dear Colleagues and friends:

It is with great regret that I am not with you in person today. Thank you for hosting Have a Heart Day and focusing on vital equality issues for First Nations children and youth. I am with you in spirit and solidarity.

Thanks to all of you involved with the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society for your vital and instrumental leadership. Your important work has raised awareness and focused a necessary spotlight on the serious inequities in the level and types of services available to Indigenous children throughout Canada. Thank you for your long-standing efforts to demand remedial action by the federal government.

The Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls clearly underscore our collective responsibility to and for Indigenous children.

We must work together to ensure that Indigenous children have every opportunity to grow up in safe homes, supported by their families and communities. They must have opportunities to learn their languages and cultures, in addition to having such basic necessities as access to clean water, healthy food, appropriate health care, and education.

For as long as it is unfortunately necessary, we will continue to demand implementation of the directions of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, the TRC Calls to Action, and MMIWG Calls for Justice, not to mention the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Nothing less than equality, justice and a hope for Indigenous children is acceptable.

To each and every one of you, miigwetch, merci, thank you,

The Honourable Kim Pate, C.M.
Senator