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Sent via E-mail

Registry Operations
Canadian Human Rights Tribunal
160 Elgin Street, 11th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 1J4

Attention: Ms. Judy Dubois, Registrar

Dear Ms. Dubois:

**Re: First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and AFN vs. A-G Canada
Your File No. CHRT File T1340/7008**

This letter responds to the Panel's request to update the Panel with regard to long-term reform. In addition to issues identified by the Caring Society, COO reports the following:

There is yet to be reform of the 1965 Agreement, acceptance of the Ontario Special Study or a path forward for long term reform in Ontario. The Ontario Special Study is in a second phase which seeks to investigate costing of the delivery of child and family services in Ontario, including a significant community-based prevention model which includes Band Representative services. The consultants working on the Ontario Special Study created a Needs Assessment Manual which was delivered on May 14, 2021. That model seeks to guide the process for First Nations to perform community needs assessments in order to continue the work of child welfare systems transformation, in line with the clear direction of the Chiefs in Assembly who seek a community-based approach to child welfare.

There is also a Chiefs of Ontario Special Study Strategic Plan for the next five years, developed in April 2021, which seeks to support First Nations communities and organizations by: supporting First Nations jurisdiction, Achieving progress on the determinants of well-being, transforming child and family well-being services and supports, and achieving equitable funding.

Both of the above documents await approval of the Chiefs of Ontario Leadership Council and Chiefs in Assembly. COO will also present the reports to the Tripartite Technical Table for discussion of next steps, including funding of future work.

Chief of Ontario continues to work with Canada and Ontario at the Tripartite Technical Table to review the above documents and determine next steps. The Tripartite Technical Table continues to meet regularly.

Yours truly,

Olthuis, Kleer, Townshend LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maggie Wente', enclosed in a faint rectangular border.

MAGGIE WENTE

MEW/

Cc: All Parties and Interested Parties (by their counsel)

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