

Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

June 11th, 2013

Dear Honourable Prime Minister Harper:

I have written to you before on a matter concerning Aboriginal Canadians. I am writing to you once again because I am not pleased with your work as Prime Minister. Sir with all due respect, a Prime Minister is supposed to be getting things done and clearly you are doing very little when it comes to making life better for First Nations people--the children in particular.

You allow Aboriginal children to be taken from their homes and placed in foster care with non-Aboriginal families. Why exactly? Is it because of the state of their living conditions and lack of access to services like health and education? It can't be, I mean you already are letting the men and women of the reserves live there. Why can't their children?

As a white Canadian female I am graced to have a safe, stable house to live in, an education up until the end of high school funded by the government, food in my stomach and many other things. However many Aboriginal children don't get the things I have and if they do it is at a much lower quality. Children who still live with their families are subject to unlivable conditions. Many houses are damaged or decaying, many with mould and other problems, just like many of the schools on the reserves.

When being taken from their families and placed in non-Aboriginal homes, they are taught how the dominating culture lives. They are not taught anything about their own heritage. How are they supposed to carry on traditions, be successors to their parents?

Being in such remote locations is not only hard but very expensive because the costs of transportation have increased the price of basic everyday items like food or clothes, increasing the hardship. Why would you or anyone, deem it acceptable to neglect these communities (who live and thrive off that land) and their children? Why aren't culturally appropriate services in education, health, and child welfare available to them to same degree as they are to me and my friends?

Is this really how you would like to be remembered? I certainly wouldn't but then again I am not the one in the high seat of government.

Do the right thing Mister Harper. Your people will appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Shannara N.