

# First Peoples Child & Family Review

## An Interdisciplinary Journal Honouring the Voices, Perspectives, and Knowledges of First Peoples through Research, Critical Analyses, Stories, Standpoints and Media Reviews

## Restoring

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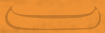
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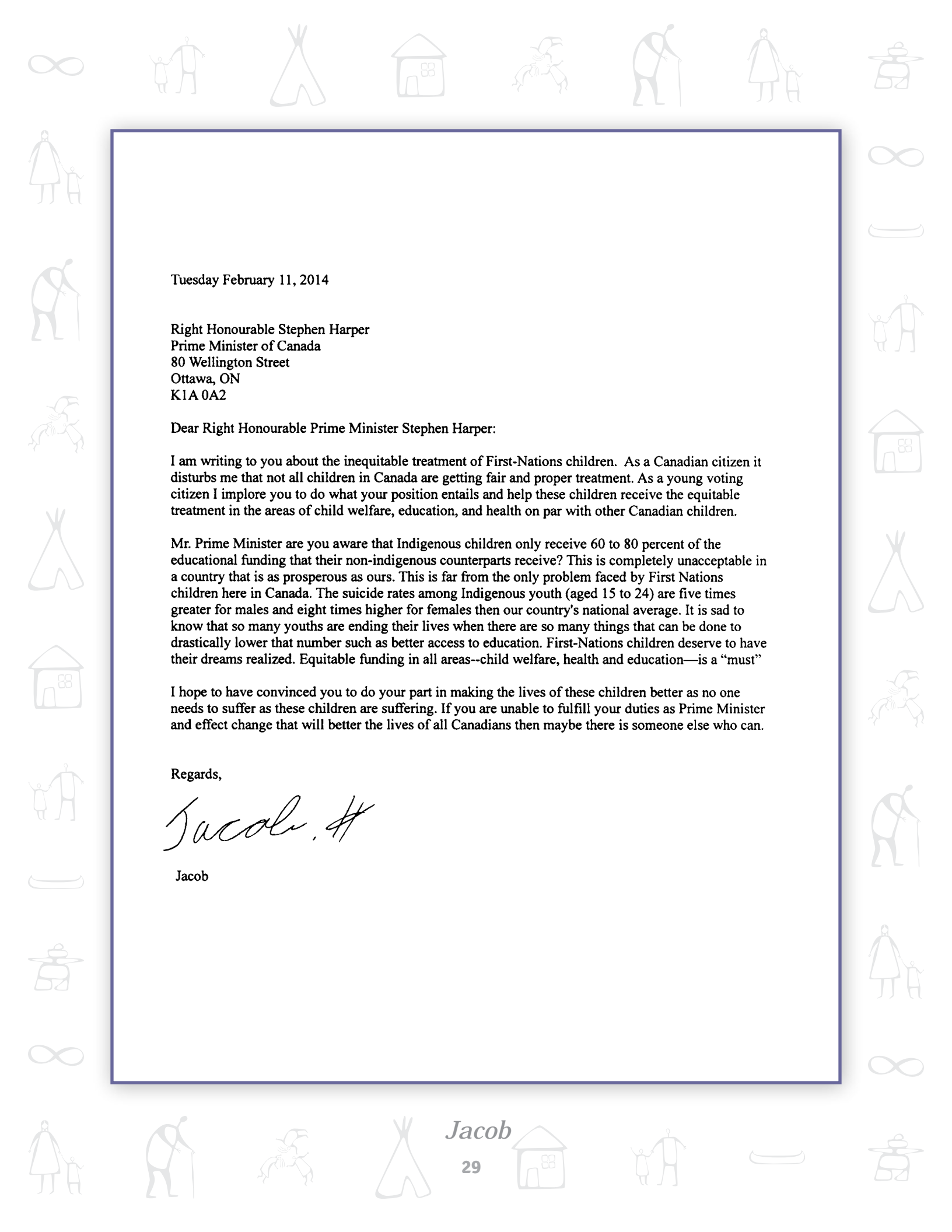
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# Restoring

Doing what we can to fix the harm and make changes to ensure it does not happen again in order to promote First Nations child and youth well-being.



Tuesday February 11, 2014

Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A2

Dear Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

I am writing to you about the inequitable treatment of First-Nations children. As a Canadian citizen it disturbs me that not all children in Canada are getting fair and proper treatment. As a young voting citizen I implore you to do what your position entails and help these children receive the equitable treatment in the areas of child welfare, education, and health on par with other Canadian children.

Mr. Prime Minister are you aware that Indigenous children only receive 60 to 80 percent of the educational funding that their non-indigenous counterparts receive? This is completely unacceptable in a country that is as prosperous as ours. This is far from the only problem faced by First Nations children here in Canada. The suicide rates among Indigenous youth (aged 15 to 24) are five times greater for males and eight times higher for females than our country's national average. It is sad to know that so many youths are ending their lives when there are so many things that can be done to drastically lower that number such as better access to education. First-Nations children deserve to have their dreams realized. Equitable funding in all areas—child welfare, health and education—is a “must”

I hope to have convinced you to do your part in making the lives of these children better as no one needs to suffer as these children are suffering. If you are unable to fulfill your duties as Prime Minister and effect change that will better the lives of all Canadians then maybe there is someone else who can.

Regards,



Jacob

Le 20 Mai 2014

Abrar

École: Feartherston

1801 Feartherston Drive

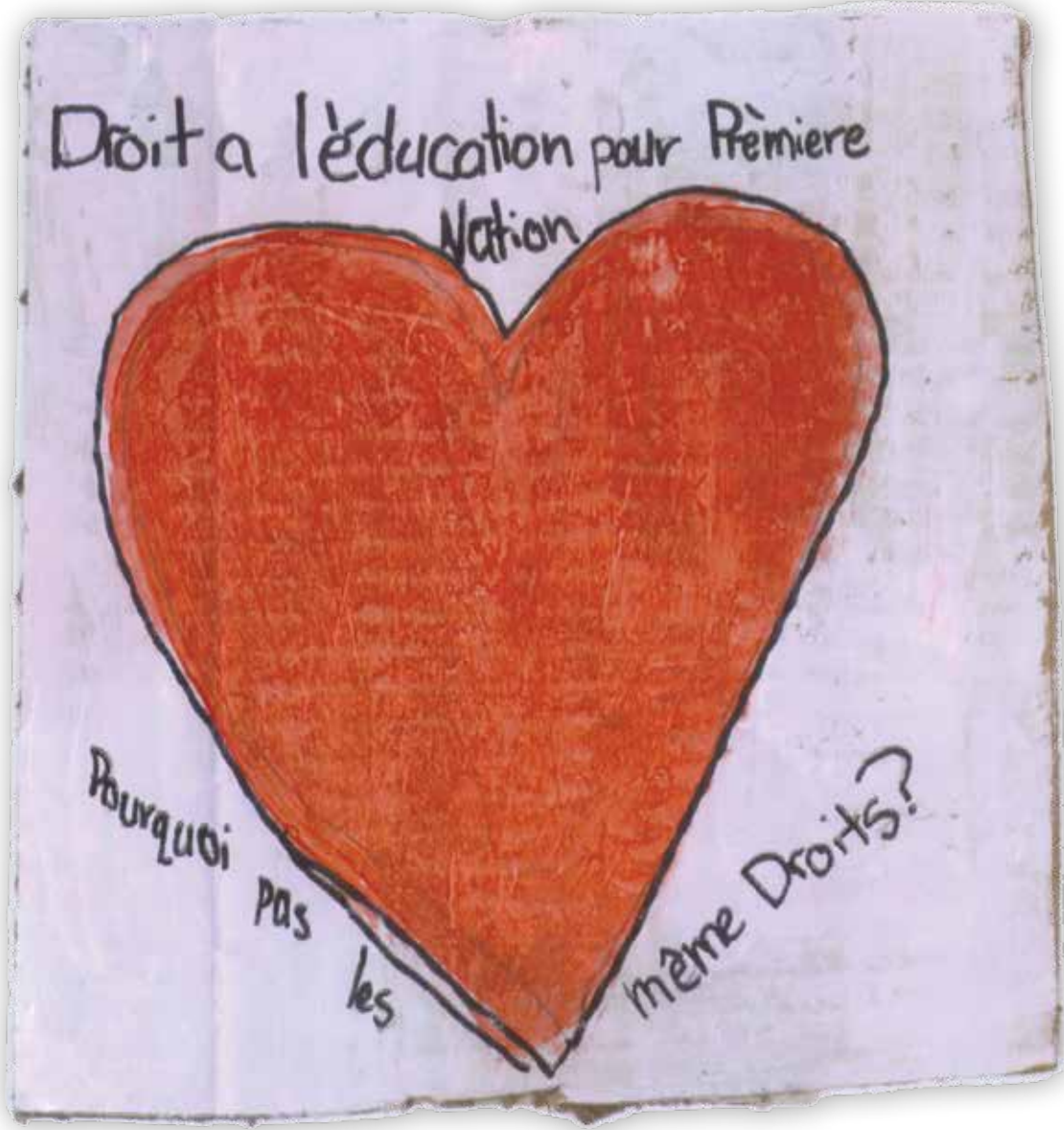
Ottawa, ON K1H 694

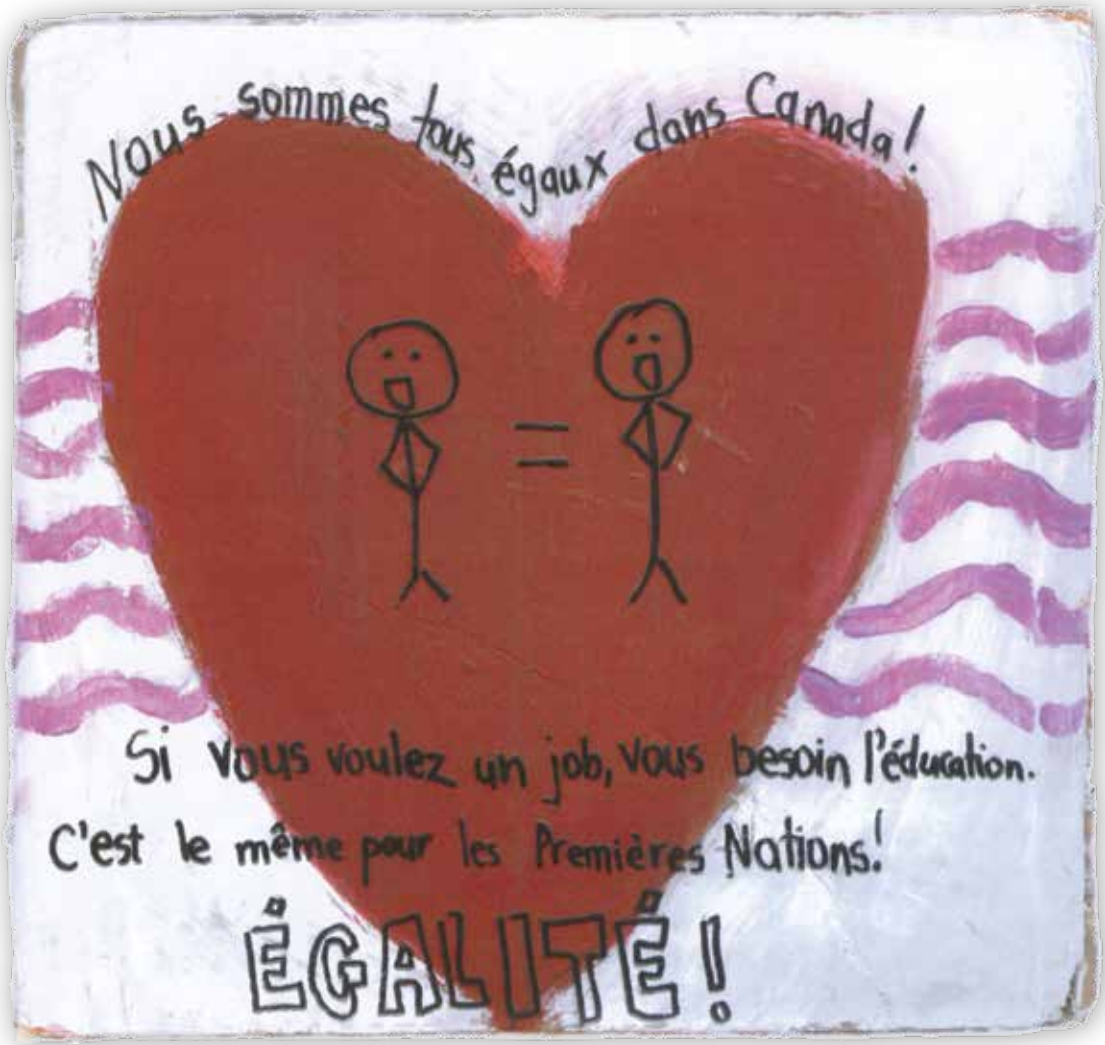
**Cher Premier Ministre Harper, Je m'appelle Abrar. Je vais à l'école Feartherston Drive. J'aime aller à l'école Feartherston parce qu'il y a une bonne éducation, plus de 20 classes, 2 salles de sport, plus de 10 fontaines d'eau et 8 toilettes. Pourquoi les Premier Nations doivent se battre pour leur éducation. Ce n'est pas égale. Tu dois aider les Premières Nations. Tu dois payer plus d'argent pour leur éducation, Santé, vêtement, nourriture E.T.C. Est-ce tu peux retirer ton objection du le Canadian Human Rights. Je rêve et souhaite que tout le monde va être égale. Merci pour de lire mon lettre.**



Sincèrement Abrar

Abrar





Gabby

21/5/14

Gabby

1801 Featherston Drive  
ottawa ON k1h 6p4

Stephen Harper  
chambre des communes  
Ottawa ON

**Cher Premier Ministre Stephen Harper**

Bonjour je m'appelle Gabrielle. A mon école presque tout le monde est gentil. La loi dit que tout le monde a le droit d'être traité également et d'avoir une bonne école. Le rêve de Shannen était d'avoir une bonne école. Maintenant il, ont construit des écoles mais il regarde les financements de les écoles il justes donne l'argent pour une école. Mais qui va donner les choses pour mettre dans l'école. Je pense que tu dois arrêter de penser à toi-même. finalement je n'aime pas la discrimination



Gabby

02/07/2014

Right Honorable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A2

Dear Right Honorable Stephen Harper:

I am writing this letter in concern about First Nation kids and I request your change of attitude so that real help can be offered.

First Nations children don't have the equitable health, school, and rights as us. These children and youth have not done anything to have fewer rights. They are not getting proper health care and because of that some children die so unnecessarily. And for school they have to go in the city. Many children cannot do it because of their racial status and they do not have enough money for school either. And lastly record numbers of children are adopted out and as a result, are not informed of who they are and where they are from. These kids have the right to know where they came from and who their parents are. They have a right to know their cultural heritage and traditions.

I am writing this because you need to act in a just and fair way. I would like you to help these kids because they are no different from we are, and they live in the same country as we do, which gives them the right to be equal. In fact they were here first which makes it doubly important.

Sincerely,




Jaydeep

Jaydeep







February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A2

Dear Rt. Honourable Stephen Harper

The time has come for you, and your government to take responsibility for the injustice shown to First Nations youth. These children, no different than any other Canadian child, are our future. They are the children who will one day be in your place, and other places of power in this great nation. Enough is enough. It is time to accept responsibility and give these children the same opportunities available to every other Canadian child, opportunities I assume you would want for your own children.

First Nations children only receive 60 to 80 percent of the education that their non-First Nations counter-parts receive. As of July 31st, 2011, 126 out of 633 First Nations communities with access to tap water were under a Drinking Water Advisory. 25% of those lasted over one year, while 20,000 Indigenous people on reserves have no access to running water or sewage disposal. Suicide rates of Indigenous youth are 5 times the national average for males and eight times the national average for females. Something needs to change. This is a serious problem. I participated in the Nishiyuu walk last year. I was greatly disappointed to hear that you, choosing to prioritize international relations over relations with your own people, did not meet these incredible young people, and instead chose to welcome pandas to the Toronto Zoo.

This, as well as the repeated dismissals of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal on First Nations Child Welfare, has led youth in my age group to lose a great deal of respect for you. If you had simply admitted to the negligence of your government towards First Nations youth in education, child welfare and health, and taken responsibility for the appalling conditions that so many First Nations youth live in, that would not be so.

I am of voting age, as are a great number of my friends, and not a single person I have spoken to in my age group is impressed. You must remember that we are your future. We are a new generation of people to impress. A new generation of youth who are passionate and driven towards change has stepped up. If you could simply take responsibility for the situation, perhaps you could gain respect from my generation.

We will no longer blindly follow. We have seen the strength we have when we work together, and we demand change. We demand that you honour your responsibilities to First Nations children and youth. Help them as if they were your sons and daughters. Give them the chance to live and dream as other Canadian youth can. Show them and the rest of us that you desire the best for this country, because the strength of a nation is shown by the equality of opportunities presented to its youth and children.

*Louis Trudey,  
Sarah*

*Sarah W.*