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Relating

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Children and Youth

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Relating

Working respectfully together
to fix the inequities and make
a better Canada for all.

Shannen's Dream

The Dream For A School



Class Time Line

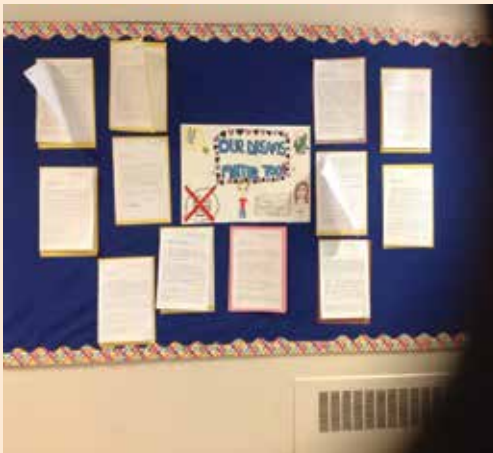
- First we started reading the book and got really interested in it.
- Then we started doing inquiry questions and homework assignments about the story.
- We started answering questions about the book on edmodo for homework. Also, we started doing [padlet](#) walls about Shannen's Dream.
- For homework one time we made [presentations](#) about someone who stood up for human rights like Shannen and Serena her sister.
- After a while Jennifer King came to our school from [First Nations Caring](#).
- Then we started writing letters to the Government to tell them about Attawapiskat.
- After all the work we were asked to go to the walk on June 11th.

June 11, 2014 Our Dreams Matter Too

On June 11, 2014 the Grade 5 students attended the annual "Our Dreams Matter Too" event. Our class wrote letters and two of our classmates were chosen to speak.



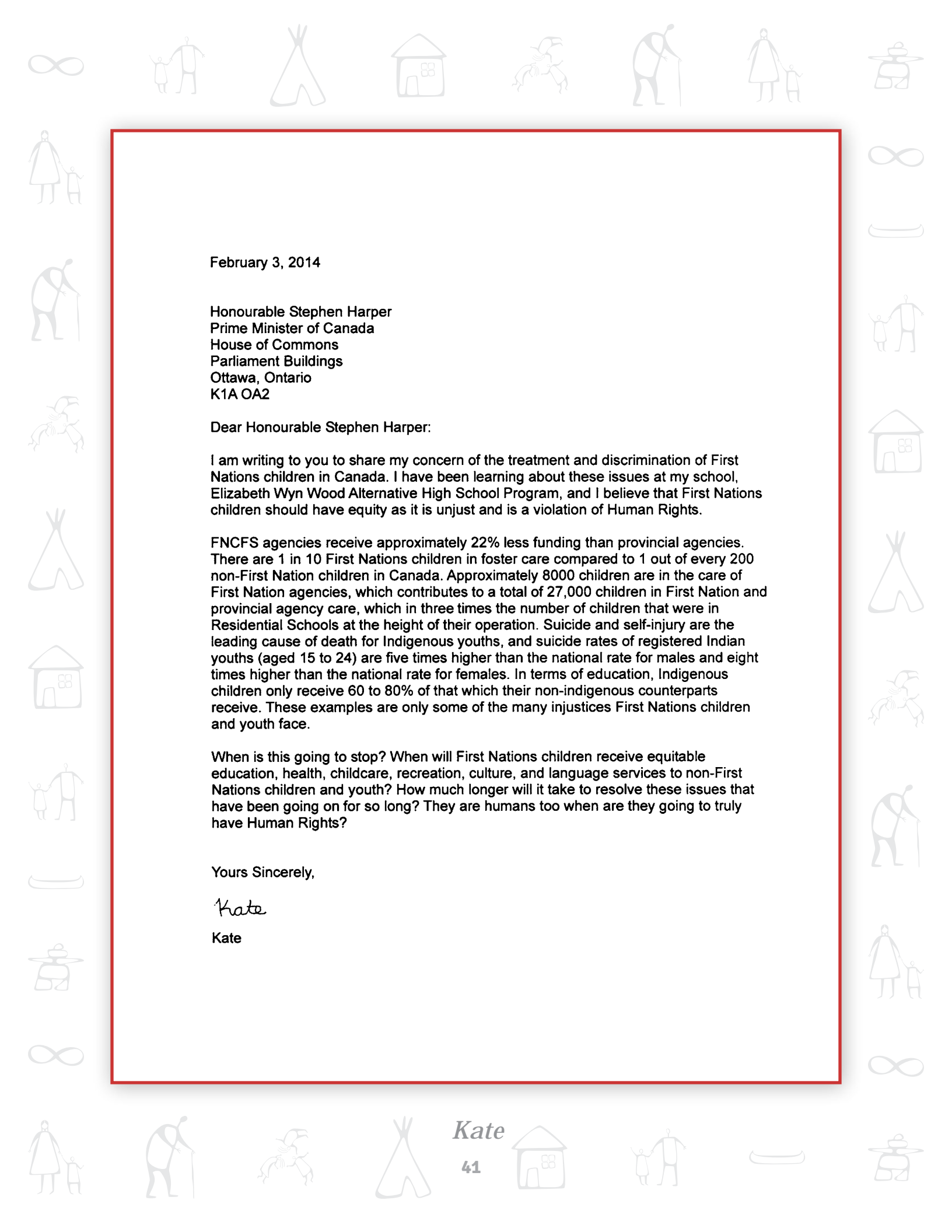
Letters to Prime Minister and MPP's



These are the letters we wrote.



Zainab.K.



February 3, 2014

Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Honourable Stephen Harper:

I am writing to you to share my concern of the treatment and discrimination of First Nations children in Canada. I have been learning about these issues at my school, Elizabeth Wyn Wood Alternative High School Program, and I believe that First Nations children should have equity as it is unjust and is a violation of Human Rights.

FNCFCS agencies receive approximately 22% less funding than provincial agencies. There are 1 in 10 First Nations children in foster care compared to 1 out of every 200 non-First Nation children in Canada. Approximately 8000 children are in the care of First Nation agencies, which contributes to a total of 27,000 children in First Nation and provincial agency care, which in three times the number of children that were in Residential Schools at the height of their operation. Suicide and self-injury are the leading cause of death for Indigenous youths, and suicide rates of registered Indian youths (aged 15 to 24) are five times higher than the national rate for males and eight times higher than the national rate for females. In terms of education, Indigenous children only receive 60 to 80% of that which their non-indigenous counterparts receive. These examples are only some of the many injustices First Nations children and youth face.

When is this going to stop? When will First Nations children receive equitable education, health, childcare, recreation, culture, and language services to non-First Nations children and youth? How much longer will it take to resolve these issues that have been going on for so long? They are humans too when are they going to truly have Human Rights?

Yours Sincerely,

Kate

Kate

Kate

Shannen's School

Shannen was in Grade 8 when she spoke out about her dream. She wanted a new school for the children in her community. The school she had was awful, it was freezing in the winter time, it had rats, mice and bugs and it had sewage dripping in the hallway.

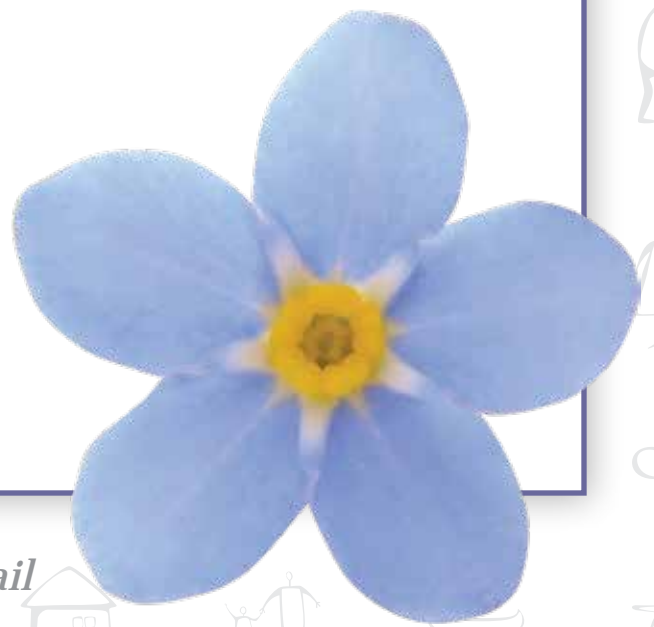
They had a proper school, but it was leaking dangerous chemicals and had to be closed and then torn down. It was a really sad day for all of the people of Attawapiskat.

Shannen started her project "Shannen's Dream" when she was in Grade 8. This project was about getting the government to get them a new school. Unfortunately, the government had already promised them a new school, but never gave came through on their promise. They had promised the in 2015. And if they ever got a school, then it would take a long time to build. And all people should have a school all of the time.

Shannen was a girl who wanted to have equality for the people of Attawapiskat and now we can make a change and help.

Help make Shannen's Dream a reality!

Abigail
student of St. George





Alinah

Monday Feb 12, 2014

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

Sincerely Prime Minister Harper;

I am writing to you in regards to the continuing issue involving the aboriginal youth, the continued underfunding of aboriginal youth and neglect of support for the aboriginal people particularly their youth. I believe that this has gone on much too long and that the actions and attitudes leading to this underfunding need to end immediately starting with realizing that aboriginal youth are Canadians as much if not more-so than any of us and as such deserve far more than the treatment they have been receiving for many years past.

As a starting point FNCFS(First Nations Child and Family Caring Society) agencies continue to receive 22% less funding than provincial non-aboriginal agencies. Approximately 50% of the 30000 children in foster care are aboriginal, 3 times as many youth as during the residential school era. There are 1 in 10 First Nations children in care compared to 1 in 200 non-aboriginal children in Canada. In education, Indigenous children receive only 60-80% the funding than other children receive.

As is shown by some of the numbers I have listed, aboriginal children are clearly being neglected or at the very least being treated differently than other children in Canada through lack of funding and other such neglect. I ask you, how can this be seen as fair, they are Canadian citizens as much as any of the rest of us and should be treated as such, not as if they are members of some shamed inferior society of lepers. Canada's evolved European culture has not given non-Aboriginal Canada a more superior society standing than aboriginal society and therefore to treat aboriginals as they are is an unforgivable act of discrimination. With a world such as we live in today how can we justify neglecting any such human beings simply due to differences in society, I implore you to see the error of the actions of underfunding and discriminatory neglect towards aboriginal youth by your government. As a Canadian citizen and legal voter I hope you do something about these problems and prove that maybe there is some hope in our government after all.

Regards,



Peter

Peter