

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

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Child & Family Review
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Truth Telling

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Respect and Equity Through Reconciliation : special Edition by Children and Youth

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Truth Telling

Talking about the inequities in child welfare, education and health for First Nations children and young people, and why First Nations cultures and languages are important to children and youth.

2/10/14

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

Dear Honorable Steven Harper:

I am writing to you today to express my absolute disgust and frustration with the way the Federal Government handles the care of First Nations children and their families. I find it completely shameful that without these people, Canada wouldn't be what it is today, yet we don't even have enough respect or love in our hearts to provide them with proper education, proper housing and clean drinking water.

Every year, approximately 20,000 First Nations people have to make do and raise children on reserves that have no running water or sewage. As of July 2011, 126 First Nations communities with access to running water were under a Drinking Water Advisory that lasted well over a year. 1 in 4 Indigenous persons live in dwellings that require major repairs, and when it comes to education, Indigenous children only receive 60% of what non-Indigenous counterparts receive.

I believe we must now ask ourselves; are these people any less important than the rest of the population? Did they do something to deserve such treatment? No, in fact, they gave us everything they have. Your office wouldn't even be standing today on the land it is on had it not been for the First Nations people. Just some food for thought. No human being should have to endure such conditions. We're all equals, and as Mahatma Ghandi says , we are all children of God. I thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I hope you will take these points into consideration and finally hear the pleas of the First Nations people that have been silenced for generations.

Yours truly,

Sarah

Sarah

Sarah A.



Hoda

École Featherston Drive
1801 Featherston Drive
Ottawa,ON
K1H 6P4

Premier Ministre Stephen Harper
chambre des communes
Ottawa,ON
K1A 0C6

Cher Monsieur Harper

Bonjour, je m'appelle Hoda. J'écris cette lettre parce que je veux que tous les enfants aient les mêmes droits et une bonne éducation. J'aime mon école parce qu'ils ont tout ce dont une école a besoin. Par exemple, un gymance,un laboratoire de ordinateurs,et on a 80 sources d'eau potable. L'école où shannen allait a seulement une source d'eau potable pour la communauté. On a 400 élèves et 1 lavabo pour chaque classe. Imagine que tes enfants va a un école avec seulement 1 lavabo et 1 toilet et il ya 350 élèves, qu'est ce que tu vas faire tu pouvais poursuivre le gouvernement si ton élève n'ont pas une bonne éducations.

Sincerely, Hoda

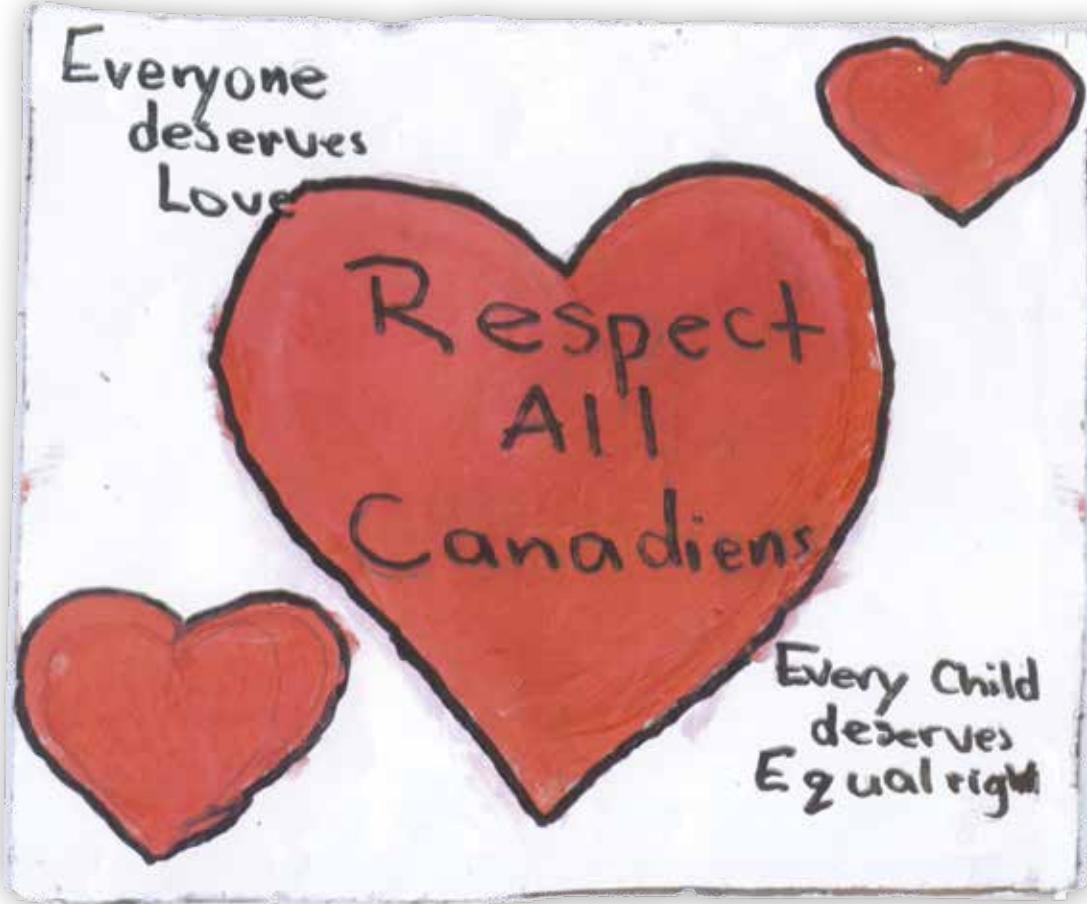
Hoda

Bonjour, je m'appelle Robyn et je suis en 6^{ième} année. I am writing to you today to express my absolute disgust and frustration with the way the Federal Government handles the care of First Nations children and their families.

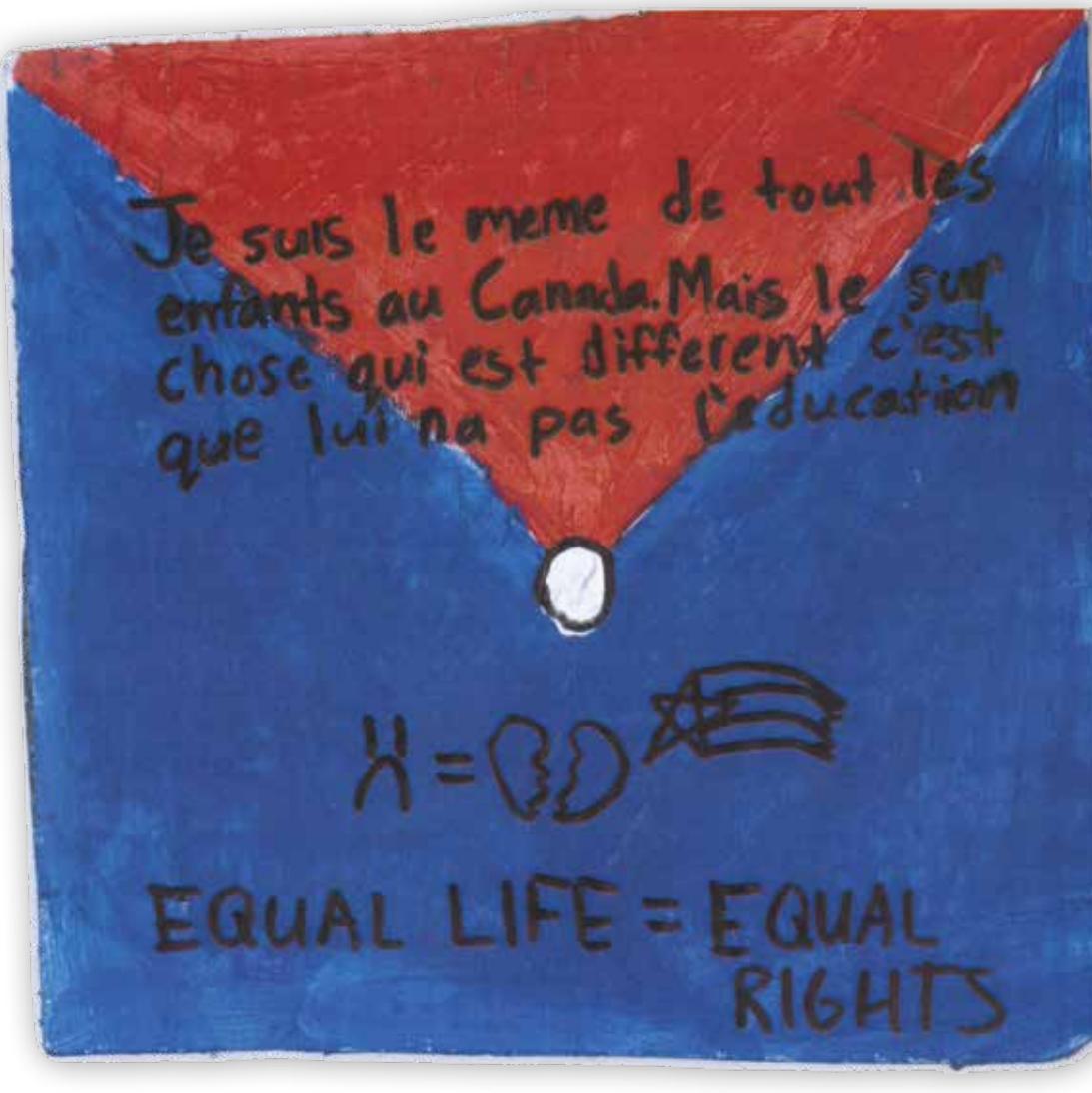
What change of attitude so that real First Nations education is more valuable than school? Children shouldn't have to go to government viole les droits de peuples simply due to differences as une éducation équitable par le gouvernement promised a new JUSTE! If Shannen was alive today, she would be voting without being surrounded pour leur éducation? Help me que je veux que tous les enfants citizen it disturbs me that not all que l'école des autochtones soit la même année. I am writing to you to say the Federal Government handles the care of First Nations children and their families. J'aimerai non école. Bonjour, j'm'appelle Gabrielle. I request your change of attitude so that real help can

Bonjour, je m'appelle Robyn et je suis en 6^{ième} année. I am writing to you today to express my desire to see the Federal Government handles the care of First Nations children and their families.

I request you to the mond est gentil his pleasure to th d'avoir une 'bonn canadien quand l ecting any huma Canada ne reçoiven sure les réserves isse. CE N'EST PAS dn't be the type o Nations doivent s J'écris cette lettr ion. As a Canadia treatment. Je veu obyn et je suis e illustration with th



Bonjour, je m'appelle Robyn et je suis en 6^{ième} année. I am writing to you today to express my absolute disgust and frustration with the way the Federal Government handles the care of First Nations children and their families. I request you to change your attitude so that free education is more valuable for First Nations? La loi dit à l'école. Children shouldn't be governed violement les êtreings simply due to differences in education équitable. The government promise JUSTE! If Shannen was a person voting without being able to attend their education because je veux que tous les citzen it disturbs me that we l'école des autochtones. I am writing my ième année. Bonjour, j'm'appelle Gabrielle. I request your change of attitude so that real help can be mond est gentil. J'is pleasure to th d'avoir une bon canadien quand l ecting any huma Canada ne reçoiven sure les réserves se. CE N'EST PAS! In't be the type of Nations doivent s J'écris cette lettr ion. As a Canadia treatment. Je veu obyn et je suis e illustration with th



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École Featherston Drive Public school
1801 Featherston Drive
Ottawa, ON K1H 6P4

Premier Ministre Stephen Harper
Chambers des Communes
Ottawa, ON K1A OAL

Cher Mr. Harper

Tous les jours quand je vais à l'école c'est normal parce que j'assume que tous les enfants ont les même droits et éducation. Quand j'avais 5-9 ans, je pensais que l'école était une place spéciale parce ce que tout le monde peut avoir l'éducation qu'ils ont besoin. Mais je ne sa vais pas que Les Premières Nations dans tout le Canada ne reçoivent pas une éducation équitable parce qu'ils/elles sont Premières Nations et vivent sur les réserves. On a besoin de ne se battre pour l'éducation. CE N'EST PAS JUSTE! On comprend la situation vous ne pouvez pas la cacher. On droit construire/réparer les écoles. J'ai une bonne école, pourquoi pas eux.



It's Complicated

by Jillian

It's complicated.

Some may say it's simple,
but it's much more.

It's complicated.

They're arrogant with their lucky lack of taxes and free education
and they ask for more.

You give them an inch and they take a mile,
but it's not that way.

And it never was that way.

Why do we pretend to see when our society turns a nascent blind eye?

Why do we listen to the name calling

spitting out of stereotyped mouths

engulfed in lies?

Most are oblivious

and oblivion is eating away at our deteriorated relationship
that never really had a stage before deteriorated.

We got off on the wrong foot

and never decided to switch feet.

Today we find ourselves with scarves of ignorance wrapped around our necks
so tight that nobody will speak the truth.

Scarves that leave scars of guilt,

And it will keep flowing into the house and destroying the foundation until we rebuild the house. You
see, we need to rebuild the house

that towers over our dystopian relationship to make things better.

But it's not that simple

and some may say it's simple.

But it's not.

It's complicated.

Bonjour, je m'appelle Robyn et je suis en 6^{ème} année. I am writing to you today to express my absolute disgust and frustration with the way the Federal Government handles the care of First Nations children.

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Friday, May 30th, 2014

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

My name is Isra and I am a student at Featherston Drive Public School. At school, I have an opportunity to grow and develop safely. Also at my school, I feel I can be who I am and I feel like I belong, but for the First Nation Indian kids they did not feel the same way because they had to go to a school far away from their home and their parents couldn't even say no and were forced to send their children to boarding school. At that boarding school the Canadian government tried to change those kids and they were not allowed to sing, dance or speak their languages. In the summer the kids were allowed to go see their parents but if you lived too far away you could not go and see your parents. And the worst thing was the government did experiments on the kids by not giving them milk for a year to see what would happen to the kids.

How would you feel if you were one of those kids? Missible. Can't you see that they think their life is better? They should not need to change. Sure, they might not have a lot of buildings or medical services, but they are taught religion, faith, how to hunt and how to take care of their families some day.

A lot of kids died at that boarding school and some even committed sui-cide at the age as small as 9! You all should feel really bad for what you did. Some kids have forgivin them but some have not and all still have bad memorises about that boarding school. I know they thought it would be the best for them but was it really?

Look at them and look at me, we are the same so let them be!

From:
Isra

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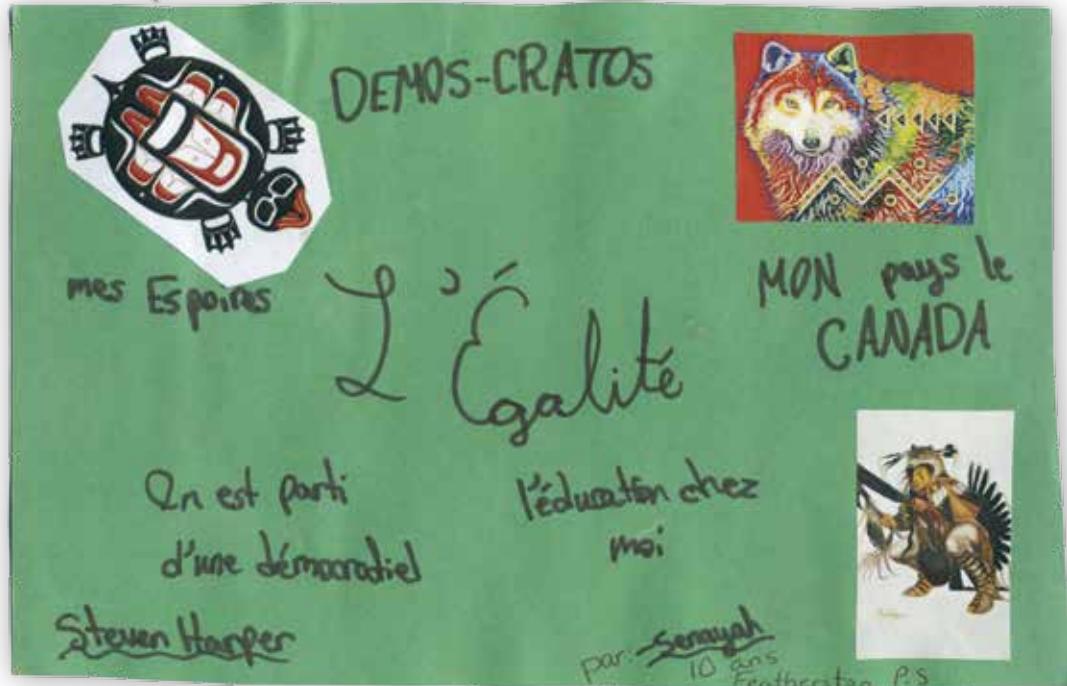
I request you to ensure to the First Nations government that they handle the care of First Nations children with respect and dignity. Children should be educated in a safe environment that respects their culture and traditions. The government must listen to the voices of the First Nations people and work towards a better future for all.

As a child, I have always been inspired by the strength and resilience of the First Nations people. They have faced many challenges, but they have always found a way to overcome them. I hope that the government will learn from their example and work towards a better future for all.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I hope that you will take my concerns seriously and work towards a better future for all.

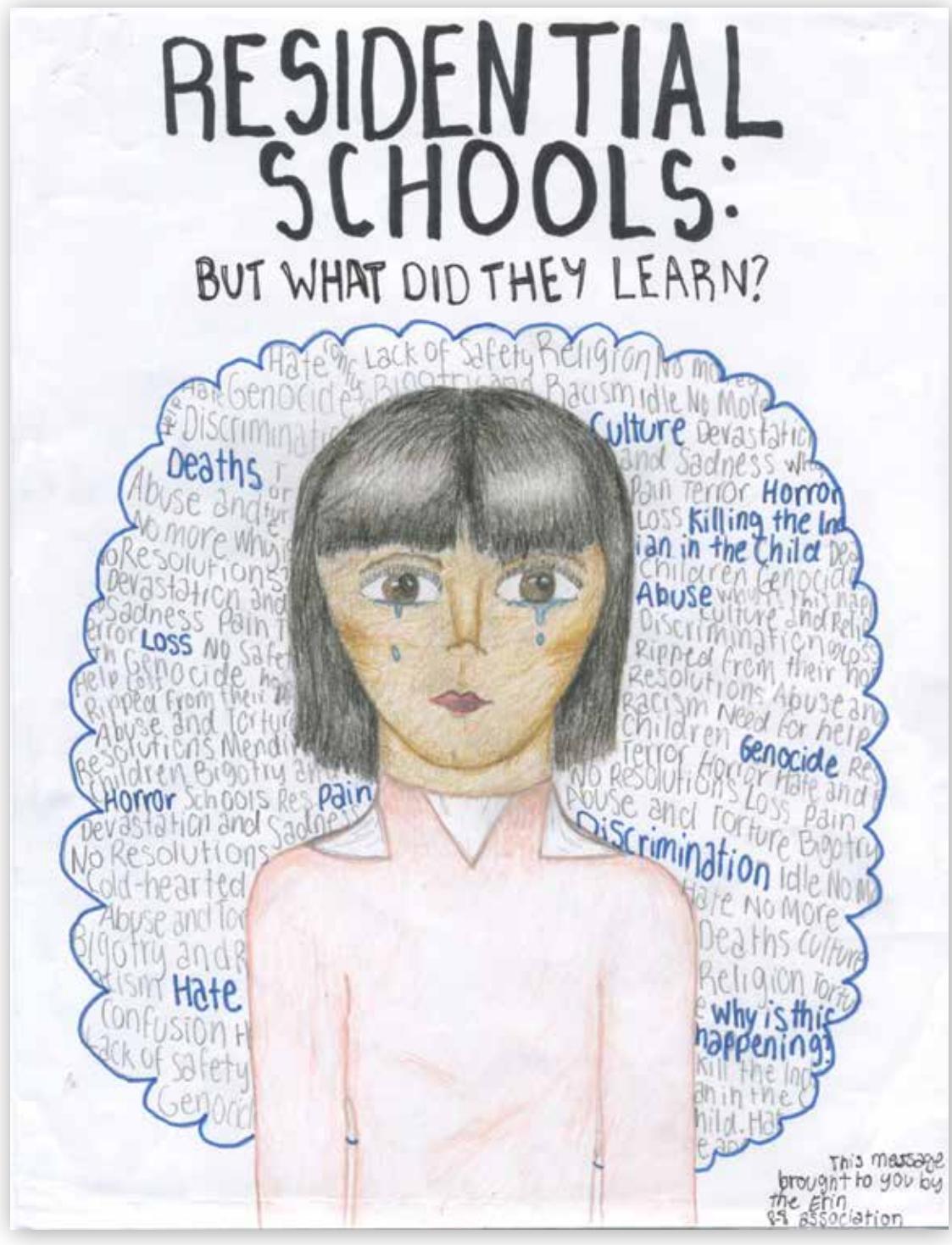
Yours sincerely,

Robyn



Bonjour, je m'appelle Robyn et je suis en 6^{ième} année. I am writing to you today to express my request you handle the care of First Nations children and frustration with the way the Federal Government handles the care of First Nations children and their families. J'aim

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