

November 21, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Standing with First Nations children should be the first thing on the list for the Minister of Justice and Attorney General today

Ottawa, ON – In a few days, the Federal Government of Canada will take First Nations children back to court in an effort to dismiss a compensation order by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT). On his first day as Canada's Minister of Justice and Attorney General, the Honourable David Lametti should drop its application for judicial review and stay of the ruling and work with the Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society to develop a plan for children, youth, and families to access compensation.

As organizations committed to the well-being of all children and to the respect of children's rights, we have been witnesses to the CHRT case of First Nations child welfare and Jordan's Principle.

We witnessed as Canada's conduct was found to be wilful and reckless in discriminating against First Nations children in care.

We witnessed when Canada was ordered to pay compensation for those who were wrongly removed from their families or denied essential services.

And we witnessed Canada file for judicial review, opting to continue to fight First Nations children in court.

In our work, we have witnessed the effects of the harm of Canada's discrimination in child and family services.

We are prepared to be a witness again on November 25th and 26th, when children head back to court to ask that the government to respect their right to safety, family, and culture.

But we would rather witness justice.

Today, on your first day as Minister of Justice and Attorney General, we ask that you act in the best interest of children. Please honour the CHRT ruling, drop Canada's judicial review, and act without delay to compensate the First Nations children, youth and families Canada has harmed.

Signed by,



Amnesty International



Campaign 2000



A Way Home Canada



Canadian Association of Social Workers



Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada



Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children



Broadbent Institute



Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions



Canadian Observatory on Homelessness



First Nations Child and Family Caring Society



Child Welfare League of Canada



INDIGENOUS BAR
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION DU
BARREAU AUTOCHTONE

Indigenous Bar Association



Children First Canada

**Native Child and
Family Services
of Toronto**



Native Child and Family Services of Toronto



Children's Aid Society of Toronto



Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver



Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Family Association



Students Commission of Canada



YMCA Canada



UFCW



Youth in Care Canada



Women's Shelters Canada

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