

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CYAA Review](#)
Subject: Response to the Child and Youth Advocate Act Review
Date: Thursday, October 13, 2016 7:42:06 PM

Dear friends,

I wish to provide comments in relation to the review of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act* to the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices. I offer these comments and suggestions in the spirit of good relations and with the hope that it will help us better serve the needs of all children and youth.

Over the course of my life, I have had the opportunity to serve with beautiful traditional and ceremonial Elders and have been inspired by their wisdom teachings. I try my best to follow their guidance in my own life today. I have worked as a cultural helper in the Pastoral Care and Counselling Program at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. I have also had the opportunity to serve on different advisory boards, including the Child Welfare Appeal Panel of Alberta and the National Parole Board of Canada.

My experiences working in these contexts have helped me better understand how difficult it is to work with Indigenous peoples and communities and help them recover from the multiple forms of intergenerational trauma that continue to circulate. In reflecting on these experiences, though, I have realized that the good intentions of the different service workers are often provided in piecemeal and unbalanced ways. Such approaches leave out the wisdom of holistic approaches to healing.

I suggest that the Standing Committee tasked with review of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act* carefully consider holistic approaches to try and address the many challenges involved in working with children and youth. I also suggest that Indigenous peoples with specific cultural and ancestral knowledge be given opportunities to help address these challenges and provide specific guidance on how to help the children and youth heal from the multiple forms of trauma.

I am willing to be part of the verbal consultation processes addressed in the Call for Participation expressed in the letter I originally received concerning the changes you are seeking. Following that, if helpful, I would be happy to participate in any initiative that flows from this and provide any guidance I am able. I envision a series of meetings and special training sessions during which the principles and processes of holistic guidance can be shared and considered.

Thank you for considering these points,

Bob Cardinal
Enoch Cree Nation
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