



March 21, 2017

Mr. Scott Cyr, MLA  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Public Accounts  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Legislature Building  
9820 – 107 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E4

Dear Mr. Cyr:

**Public Accounts Committee, January 24, 2017, Children’s Services -  
Systems to Deliver Child and Family Services to Indigenous Children in Alberta**

I am pleased to provide the written responses to the following three questions, as was requested of us at the January 24, 2017 meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts:

1. Page 18 of your report states “the compliance rate for the caseworker contact standard was 16 per cent.” **Question: how many caseworkers are there to serve these children?**

We do not have this specific information and would suggest that management at the Department of Children Services could best provide it.

2. The report states, “there are five Indigenous Parent Link Centres designed to meet the needs of First Nations, Metis and Inuit families.” **Question: are you able to tell us where these are located?**

- Aboriginal Parent Link Centre (Stony Plain)
- Awo Taan Healing Lodge Parent Link Centre (Calgary)
- Bent Arrow Parent Link Centre (Edmonton)
- Metis Settlements [Note: funded as one Parent Link Centre]
  - Buffalo Lake Parent Link Centre (Caslan)
  - Elizabeth Parent Link Centre (Cold Lake)
  - Fishing Lake Parent Link Centre (Sputinow)
  - Gift Lake Parent Link Centre (Gift Lake)
  - Kikino Parent Link Centre (Kikino)
  - Paddle Prairie Parent Link Centre (Paddle Prairie)
  - Peavine Parent Link Centre (High Prairie)
- Native Network Parent Link Centre (Calgary)

3. You state that the department has substantially reduced the number of children in care over the past several years. Question: **Are you able to give us any specific numbers regarding these reductions, and how this was accomplished?**

The attached document provides an overview of the number of children in care from 2010-2011 to 2015-2016. We have included the source of this information, which is publicly available from the Department of Children's Services (formerly Human Services).

The department attributes this reduction to practice changes such as the introduction of the Child Intervention Practice Framework, Signs of Safety and Outcomes Based Service Delivery. More information on these initiatives is available in: Aboriginal Children in Care, A Report to Canada's Premiers, July 2015, pages 29-30, available at: [http://canadapremiers.ca/phocadownload/publications/aboriginal\\_children\\_in\\_care\\_report\\_july2015.pdf](http://canadapremiers.ca/phocadownload/publications/aboriginal_children_in_care_report_july2015.pdf)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written response to these questions.

Yours truly,

*[Original signed by Merwan N. Saher]*

Merwan N. Saher FCPA, FCA  
Auditor General

Encl.

MS/rh