



EASTERN SYNOD
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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November 23, 2009

The Hon. Charles (Chuck) Strahl
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
House of Commons, Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Strahl:

As Bishop of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada I regularly interact with congregations and church leaders in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes as they deal with issues within and between families regarding the healthy development of children and youth.

As a result of our commitment to nondiscrimination against anyone within our society and support for the leadership given through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, I am also aware of the upcoming Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) Tribunal on the federal government's treatment of First Nations children which involves the Government of Canada and the interests of children and youth receiving services and programs from First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies.

The Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada stands in support of ALL children and youth receiving government funded services and programs. Such programs and services dare never discriminate against any child or young person, their families or their communities.

We will watch with great interest the interventions of all parties involved and then the final decision of the CHRC Tribunal.

Sincerely,

Bishop Michael Pryse
Eastern Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
MP/cd

cc The Right Hon. Stephen Harper
Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada
Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Québécois
The Hon. Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party
The Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, the Anglican Church of Canada