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From: "Lyla Andrew" [REDACTED]

Subj: Please consider

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To:

[REDACTED]

Folks, I have a simple idea (don't know why I didn't think of it before) that I would like to propose in regard to the very real challenge of trying to create placements for Innu children in the 2 communities. Currently, we continue to take more children into care and have children we need to return to the communities so this means if we want them to remain within their culture after apprehension, and every time this is our first goal, we need more Innu families willing to take children. Our current very real practice, is often to mentally go through street lists, trying to think who could we ask! This is not in anyone's interests of finding suitable placements. I would like to propose that each community, through the Health Commission, NGG and Social Health depts. create a small "placement committee" of staff and community members, that would create a list of families, that are felt by the community, to be suitable potential placement homes. The placement committee would approach each of these families to see if they would be willing to have their names on a list and put forward to CYFS as possible placement families. Once this list is developed, we would meet with the placement committee to review and share any specific concern that there might be. Then, with mutual agreement as to the families on the list, I would make a commitment that we would approach these families with specific requests for placements. We have to raise the profile within the communities of the need for more families to take children. We also have to do a better job of supporting placement families and that might be another piece of work, ie. identifying how do we support families better who care for other folks children, that the committee might want to look at. ...I would very much appreciate a response to this idea, especially from those of you living in the communities. Thanks, Lyla