



GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ST. JOHN'S

1990 03 30

Mr. Wayne Penney
Regional Director
Labrador Regional Office
Elizabeth Goudie Building
Station "B", Happy Valley
NFLD
AOP 1E0

Dear Wayne:

On March 26, 1990, the Legislative Review Committee discussed your correspondence of February 14, 1990. In attendance for the meeting was Mr. Dave Kennedy of Native Affairs. *title*

Throughout the course of the committee meetings on the review of the Child Welfare Act, much discussion and reflection went into the committee members final recommendations. The concerns of the Native population of our province received considerable deliberation. The committee has wrangled with the issue of Child Welfare Committees, not just for northern communities, but also for the province as a whole. The committee feels that there is no need for enabling legislation for these committees in order for them to be established in an advisory position. There are currently 31 such committees operating in Newfoundland and Labrador to date and a study is being completed into these. Recommendations from that report will be forthcoming within the year.]

*Legislative
does not
prevent
establishment*

Overall the committee has no major objection to the concerns raised in your correspondence, however, the committee does not see cultural/ethnic heritage to be the utmost consideration in determining the best interest of the child. In making that determination, as you are no doubt aware, there are numerous variables and issues which must be taken into consideration.

The following constitutes the response of the committee of the recommendations as outlined in Mrs. Mullins report.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The committee would recommend the following change:

"That whenever possible, services to children and their families should be provided in a manner that respects cultural/ethnic differences.

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RECOMMENDATION 4

The child's right of permanency in ^{his/her} their environment is included in the current recommendation. Again the committee does not want to recommend in legislation that ethnic consideration be given as the utmost importance in determining the best interest of a child.

RECOMMENDATION 12

The committee supports the recommendation that the Child Welfare Board have a representative from the Native Community. The committee is not prepared to recommend a "Northern Native representative" as the legislation is provincial and a native population does exist in elsewhere in Newfoundland.

RECOMMENDATION 49

The committees response of recommendation to two and four can also be applied here. This section could read as follows:

"Which will provide for the care of that child/youth and will meet their ethnical heritage, physical, educational, recreational and developmental needs".

RECOMMENDATION 58

The committee would recommend that this section read as follows, with the change being that lifestyle be removed from the list:

1. →cultural background
2. placement with siblings
3. placement in home community

For your further information the committee will ^{be} discussing native issues as they relate to the Adoption Act, at a date to be determined. You will be notified of that date and your attendance at that meeting will be most welcome and beneficial to both yourself and the committee members. It will give you an opportunity to discuss your concerns involving both sets of recommendations.

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Thank you for your valuable input into this process and look forward to discussing these issues with you at a later date.

Yours truly,

ETHEL DEMPSEY
Social Work Coordinator
Legislative Review

/mh