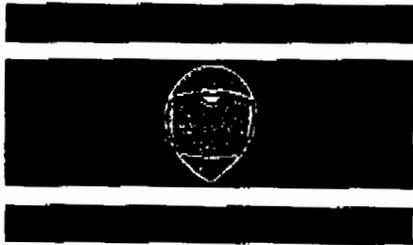


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Innu Nation

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Office Of President Daniel Ashini
Tel: (709) 497-8399/8390
Fax: (709) 497-8937

Date: Jan 15-07

To: Hon. Tom Osborne

Company: Minister of Health and Community Services

Fax: 709-729-0121

From: Daniel Ashini

Total of pages being sent including cover page: 3

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January 15, 2007

Via Facsimile 709-729-0121

The Honourable Tom Osborne
Minister of Health and Community Services
Government of Newfoundland Labrador

Dear Minister:

Re: Child, Youth and Family Services in Sheshatshiu and Natuashish

As President of the Innu Nation, I am writing to you on an urgent basis to request a meeting to discuss what I consider to be an emergency situation with respect to the implementation of child, youth and family services in Sheshatshiu and Natuashish. The problem is two fold. In the first place, it has to do with what many Innu people and families have explained to me is the unwarranted removal of children from families. In the second place, the problem is the inappropriate placement of removed children as in many cases they are placed with families outside of Sheshatshiu and Natuashish (and in some cases outside the province) that have no understanding or appreciation of Innu culture and Innu immediate and extended family relationships.

The fundamental objective of child, youth and family services is the protection of children who are in need of protection. The Innu fully support this objective and as you know believe that protection services would be most appropriately provided by an Innu agency designated for that purpose. This has been a matter of discussion between your government, the First Nation governments of Sheshatshiu and Natuashish, the Innu Nation and the Government of Canada for many years. Most recently, this issue has been discussed at the Main Table chaired by Chief Federal Negotiator Eric Maldoff where the respective parties, including the Government of Newfoundland Labrador, meet to discuss issues including the devolution of social services.

It is my view that this devolution issue must be addressed with much greater urgency and I would like to meet with you at the earliest possible date to discuss options for accelerating the devolution.

In the meantime, we need to put in place interim measures that immediately address the two serious problems, namely what we consider to be the unwarranted removal of children and the inappropriate placement of those children. Immediate interim measures are required because

