



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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March 18, 2019

The Right Honourable the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
pm@pm.gc.ca

re Bill C-92 An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families

Dear Prime Minister Justice Trudeau:

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, I write to you regarding the urgent matter of Bill C-92.

In the Preamble of Bill C-92, “Canada acknowledges the ongoing call for funding for child and family services that is predictable, stable, sustainable, needs based and consistent with the principle of substantive equality in order to secure long-term positive outcomes for Indigenous children, families and communities.”

It is troubling that Bill C-92 does not include funding for Indigenous governing bodies that pass laws to establish their own Child and Family Agencies.

Bill C-92 should bind the federal government to provide needs-based and substantively equal funding. Funding would help demonstrate your commitment to Reconciliation, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Canada’s ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the rulings of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT).

There is still time to get this right. In the name of justice and for the sake of right relations with Indigenous peoples, please instruct that Bill C-92 be amended to include the principle of substantive equality so that Indigenous governing bodies that pass laws to establish their own Child and Family Agencies will, consistent with the rulings of Canada’s Human Right Tribunal (CHRT), receive funding that is adequate for them to secure long-term positive outcomes for their children families and communities.

Yours in Christ

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada