

April 25, 2024

The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree  
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6  
Via email: [gary.anand@parl.gc.ca](mailto:gary.anand@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Anandasangaree,

I am writing to you as the Anglican Bishop of British Columbia. The Diocese I serve is home to over 50 indigenous nations. There are countless residential school survivors and day school survivors in our diocese and the harmful legacy of these schools is an ever-present reality. The church has much to atone for, most especially St. Michaels Residential School. I was honored to spend part of Holy Week on 'Yalis with, among others, survivors of that school.

Joining me as co-signers of this letter are The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada and The Most Rev. Chris Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada.

We write today to join our voice to the opposition MPs in asking that the day school settlement agreement be re-opened. Many claimants have been retraumatized by the very process that was meant to compensate them for their abuse.

Three quarters of claims have been paid out at the lowest level of compensation and we know that much of the reason for that is that the burden of proof on the victims to prove 'repeated sexual abuse', in order to receive the highest claim amount, is simply too high.

What seems to have been lost in the settlement agreement that is being administered by Deloitte and Gowling is that we are dealing with instances of child abuse. These are not simple insurance claims.

I urge you to re-open the settlement agreement and to find a more compassionate and trauma-informed way to compensate victims.

Peace,



The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee  
Bishop of British Columbia



The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls  
Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada



The Most Rev. Chris Harper  
National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop  
of the Anglican Church of Canada