

21 May 2016

Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

Dear Honourable Prime Minister Trudeau:

My name is Susan Enberg. I am a woman who identifies as Métis-Swedish. I am a graduate student of documentary filmmaking, and a human rights advocate with a heightened focus on indigenous issues in Canada. I would like to thank you for the good works you have done since being sworn into office in November 2015 and hope that together we might continue this momentum when addressing the issue of cultural genocide in Canada.

Currently, I am producing a full-length collaborative documentary film with the Survivors of St. Anne's Residential School (Fort Albany, Ontario) that focuses on the abuses suffered by children while at that school, as well as the issue of how justice is being obstructed by the Department of Justice for St. Anne's Survivors who have put forth claims in the Independent Assessment Process.

Prime Minister Trudeau, over the course of years, I have done an immense amount of research on the residential schools and have come to the conclusion that due to government and church policies, cultural genocide did indeed occur at St. Anne's Residential School as well as other residential schools. Significantly, I have been in contact with others in leadership positions from the two opposing political parties as well as a Commissioner of the Truth and

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Reconciliation Commission who have gone on record stating that cultural genocide has occurred in Canada, and that as such, 'cultural genocide' needs to become part of Canada's national historical record. Prime Minister, you have the power to make this right, to go on record by stating that the politics and policies of earlier days were intent on destroying the cultures of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of Canada. Now is the time to make this statement.

Honourable Prime Minister, I was there with you at the release of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Ottawa in January and your empathy certainly seemed genuine. However, we must keep in mind that empathy is active. Let's begin to rewrite Canada's history together to ensure that a more inclusive and truthful narrative is presented. As you already know, with honour comes great responsibility. It is time to earn the highest respect of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples of Canada: this would be a very powerful way to earn this respect. Thus, please consider going on record by scheduling a one-on-one interview with myself (and a small recording crew) before the end of 2016 to discuss the issue of cultural genocide in Canada. With your cooperation, reconciliation may truly be possible. Without it, reconciliation will continue to elude this great nation of ours.

Respectfully,

Susan G. Enberg

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