

WORLD-CHANGING KIDS

Writing Letters for Reconciliation

Template for kids ages 7-13 and their families



Topic: Close the gaps in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities

Step One: Date, Contact Info, Greeting

Oct 14, 2021

The Right Honourable
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 5K9

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Step Two: First Paragraph - State your purpose for writing the letter. You can choose one or both of these options or come up with your own.

I am writing to demand that your government work towards identifying and closing the gaps in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

These gaps happen in areas such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic disease, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate services. In all of these areas, Indigenous peoples are doing worse than non-Indigenous Canadians.

Step Three: Second Paragraph - Add info explaining why this issue is important to you. You can choose one or both of these options or come up with your own.

Canada's health care system has a history of segregation and discrimination against Indigenous peoples. Many Indigenous patients do not receive anywhere close to a comparative level of care that non-Indigenous Canadians receive.

We have a health system that separates people, and the level of health care they receive, based on their race. We're a country that says we believe in equality, equity and fairness. But then we accept the truth that Indigenous peoples receive a lower level of treatment in our health care system. This is not fair.

Step Four: Third Paragraph - Include clear requests. You can choose one or both of these options or come up with your own.

I am urging you to fully implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #19: Identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

Four changes that could help with this include: providing better support for health workers in Indigenous communities; addressing racism among health workers through mandatory courses about Indigenous culture; making trauma-informed care the standard for care; and implementing basic standards for supplies in nursing stations in remote, Indigenous communities.

Step Five: Final Paragraph - Ask questions and request a response. You can choose these questions or come up with your own.

It's time to end these gaps in health outcomes and prove that we are a country that does believe in equality, equity and fairness.

Will you commit to making this a priority?

How will you ensure that you are making real progress on this Call to Action?

Please respond with answers to these questions.

Step Six: Closing - Include your name, age and address at the end of the letter.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name

Age

Street Address

City, Province Postal Code