

WORLD-CHANGING KIDS

Writing Letters for Reconciliation

Template for kids ages 7-13 and their families



Topic: Shannen's Dream - All Indigenous Children and Youth deserve equitable education

Step One: Date, Contact Info, Greeting

Oct 27, 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.

First Nations children on reserves receive \$2,000 to \$3,000 less funding per student, per year than non-Indigenous children. This means less funding for teachers, special education, books, science equipment, and musical instruments. It also means that the schools don't have money for upgrades and renovations, and many of the schools are very run down and in terrible condition.

After learning about Shannen's Dream that all Indigenous kids deserve equitable education, I am writing to demand that your government work towards ensuring that Indigenous children receive the same quality of education as non-Indigenous children.

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.

Some on-reserve schools are dealing with mould growing in their buildings. One school had to deal with an infestation of snakes. Some First Nations children go to school in shifts because the school is so over-crowded that there is not enough room for all the students to attend at the same time. And some schools are so badly insulated that students have to wear gloves inside their classroom in the winter so that their hands do not become too cold to hold their pencils.

It is unacceptable that in Canada, a very prosperous country, many First Nations children can't attend a safe and healthy school.

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

These inequities in education on reserve make it difficult for thousands of First Nations children to reach their full potential.

I am urging you to provide sufficient and equitable funding for proper schools and culturally-based education on reserves.

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

It is time for fairness and equity. Please take action on this now, so that you don't fail another generation of First Nations children and youth.

Will you commit to making this a priority?

How will you ensure that you are making real progress on this issue?

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