

[Date]

[Minister Name]

[Position]

[Mailing address]

Dear [Name of Minister]

Re: Bill C-61 - *Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement Act*

I am writing to you as an Anishinabek Nation citizen to request your support for the *Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement*. On October 5, 2017, Bill C-61, the *Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement Act*, was introduced to the House of Commons. Your advocacy is influential and I ask that you work with other members of Parliament to ensure the quick passage of Bill C-61 so that the AES can meet its target effective date and be operational on April 1, 2018.

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett joined my community and 22 Anishinabek First Nations on August 16, 2017, for the historic signing of the *Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement*, a self-government agreement that recognizes Anishinabek law-making powers and authority of education for approximately over 8,000 students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 on and off-reserve.

Through this Agreement, our communities will establish the Anishinabek Education System (AES). Supporting Bill C-61 is an opportunity to support an education system designed to undo the harm our people have suffered through the Residential School System.

The AES is designed *by Anishinabek for Anishinabek* and strives to ensure a quality of life based on the highest standards of Anishinaabe intellectual and holistic knowledge that supports the preservation and on-going development of the Anishinaabe. The AES will make positive advances in the development of culturally relevant curriculum and educational programs that support the Anishinabek student success and well-being.

The *Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement* is a concrete step on the path to self-determination and self-governance. Our hope is that your government will continue making foundational changes to laws, policies, and operational practices based on the recognition of rights to advance self-determination and self-government.

The AES sets the stage for the Participating First Nations to develop culturally relevant and community-tailored education programs for the benefit of the Anishinabek students today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. We need to set the stage and realize our vision of the AES.

The future of the Anishinabek Education System is reliant upon the success of this Bill. I hope that you will say YES to the AES. I ask that you will support Bill C-61.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name Here]