

June 3rd, 2011

Sherri Walsh, Commission Counsel
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Re: **Application for standing as a party in the Inquiry into the death of Phoenix Sinclair**
revised

Dear Ms. Sherri Walsh

I would like to make application for myself and my daughters and my son to be granted standing as a party in the Inquiry into the death of Phoenix Sinclair.

I believe we qualify for standing because of the nature of our experiences.

My daughters were removed from my care and custody several years ago. The details of why can be discussed more at a later date. (My daughters) were eventually placed in a foster home in Fisher River First Nations (Peguis CFS). Due to conflicts in the foster home, they were moved to another foster home in Winnipeg. Again, due to conflicts in the foster home, they were moved to yet another foster home in Winnipeg. Eventually, (daughter 1) was moved out of the foster home with no supports. She became technically homeless. (daughter 2) is still living in the foster home. Presently, (daughter 1) is doing not doing well. (Daughter 2), on the other hand, is doing well but her success has been from her own hard work.

My son was taken into care about a year after my daughters went into care. Again, the details of why can be discussed more at a later date. The social workers who were immediately involved in the case – again Peguis CFS – immediately made reference to how they were “such good friends of Jesus.” (My son) went through several foster homes and then he started to get into real trouble, including with alcohol and drugs. He was fifteen. Presently, (my son) is not doing well.

The reason I feel that my family has contributions to make is because we were within the same system, the same social workers even. Our insights are unique and our feedback would have no intent other than truly trying to share our thoughts and opinions on what would make the system work better.

-Carmen