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June 6, 2011

VIA EMAIL

REFERENCE NO:

107695-0012

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Attention: Sherri Walsh

Dear Madam:

Re: Application for Standing of the Child and Family All Nation Coordinated Response Network in the matter concerning the Inquiry into the Circumstances Surrounding the Death of Phoenix Sinclair

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Services provided by:
Harold Cochrane Law Corporation

Please consider this letter a formal Application for Standing at the above captioned Inquiry on the part of our client, Child and Family All Nations Coordinated Response Network ("ANCR").

There are 19 Child and Family Services (CFS) agencies, including ANCR, operating in the City of Winnipeg. ANCR provides a single point of entry to the CFS system in the City of Winnipeg, Headingly, and East and West St. Paul.

By way of summary, ANCR is responsible to provide Crisis Response Services, Intake Services, Child Abuse Investigations and Family Enhancement Services on behalf of the four (4) CFS Authorities and their agencies.

The Crisis Response Unit provides first response to new intakes during regular working hours. The After Hours Unit provides emergency child welfare services on behalf of all four authorities and their mandated agencies after working hours and on weekends and holidays.

Intake Services provides follow up services for those intakes that require a child welfare assessment to determine risk to children and the need for on-going child and family services. When a determination is made that a child is in need of protection or a family requires support services, Intake services is responsible for the completion of the Authority Determination Protocol (ADP) and the transfer of cases to other CFS agencies.

The Child Abuse Investigations Unit completes child abuse investigations on intakes and provides centralized child abuse investigative services to CFS agencies operating in the City of Winnipeg.

The Family Enhancement Unit is a part of the differential response service delivery model in the Province of Manitoba.

In support of our application for standing, we submit that Order in Council no. 89/2011 (the "OIC"), under which the Inquiry has been called raises significant issues of concern for

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ANCR given ANCR's important and central role in the delivery of child welfare services in the City of Winnipeg and surrounding areas. These are issues which the Honorable Commissioner may make comment or recommendation, and which are matters having a direct and substantial impact on ANCR. These issues include the following:

1. The Honorable Commissioner, in accordance with the OIC, must inquire into "the child welfare services provided or not provided to Phoenix Sinclair and her family" and "report his findings and recommendations to better protect Manitoba children". In that regard, because of ANCR's important role in the delivery of child welfare services, ANCR would be directly and substantially affected by any systemic recommendations made by the Commissioner.

2. It is anticipated that a number of ANCR's employees (seconded from Winnipeg Child and Family Services) will be called upon to provide evidence at the Inquiry. In that regard, findings which may comment on the specific involvement of current ANCR employees, or any findings which may comment on the standards for child protection workers generally, will inevitably have a direct and substantial impact on ANCR and its employees as a whole.

3. As a single point of entry to the CFS system in the City of Winnipeg and surrounding area, ANCR is unique and can provide evidence or otherwise assist the Inquiry to fully understand many essential components of the child welfare system including current centralized intake procedures/processes, emergency services, and the ADP.

4. Pursuant to the OIC, the Honorable Commissioner must have "regard to and consider the recommendations, as subsequently implemented, made in the reports done after the death of Phoenix Sinclair". In that regard, many of the recommendations from those reports have been implemented by the Southern First Nations of Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority at ANCR. Evidence of what changes have taken place and their effectiveness in the wake of this tragedy could be relevant to the Inquiry.

For these reasons, we respectfully submit that ANCR ought to be granted standing at the Inquiry.

Should you require anything further by way of formal written application, please let me know. Otherwise, we will attend at the oral standing hearing currently scheduled for June 28th and, if necessary, June 29th, 2011.

Yours truly,
D'ARCY & DEACON LLP
Per:


HAROLD COCHRANE

HC / ph