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Canadian Human Rights Tribunal
240 Sparks Street, 6th Floor West
Ottawa, ON K1A 1J4
Attn: Registrar

Dear Registrar and Tribunal:

Re: First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, Assembly of First Nations v. Attorney General of Canada, et al. - Tribunal File: T1340/7008

I write on behalf of the Assembly of First Nations (“AFN”), in response to the letter of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (“**Caring Society**”) dated June 19, 2026, pursuant to the oral direction of the Tribunal at the case management conference held on July 21, 2026.

The AFN supports the position articulated in the Caring Society’s letter. The AFN wishes to re-emphasize that pursuant to the AFN Charter, it will always respect and support First Nations’ inherent right to self-determination. As such, it will support regions that pursue pathways to reform that they see as the best fit for their children and families.

In the same vein, the AFN will also support individual First Nations’ ability to advocate for themselves in this proceeding. Put differently, the AFN’s support for regional approaches to long-term reform does not displace the right of individual First Nations to speak or advocate for themselves. A First Nation that disagrees with, is affected by, or does not fully align with a regional agreement should remain able to advance its own position where it considers that to be necessary.

The AFN therefore respectfully urges the Tribunal to confirm that its May 22, 2026 Direction does not foreclose, or unduly constrain, the ability of First Nations to seek interested party status where their participation may assist the Tribunal and can be accommodated without delaying the orderly progress of these proceedings. In the AFN’s view, such an approach is consistent with fairness, efficiency, and the need to ensure that the Tribunal has the benefit of a complete evidentiary record.

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Yours truly,

FASKEN MARTINEAU DuMOULIN LLP



Peter Mantas

Cc:

David Taylor, Henna Mohan, and Sarah Clarke – Counsel for the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Dayna Anderson, Paul Vickery, Sarah Bird and Alicia Dueck-Read – Counsel for the Attorney General of Canada

Maggie Wenté, Sinéad Dearman, Jenna Rogers, Jessie Stirling-Voss, Ashley Ash, and Katelyn Johnstone – Counsel for the Chiefs of Ontario

Julian Falconer and Meaghan Daniel – Counsel for the Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Justin Safayeni, Stephen Aylward and Geneviève Citron – Counsel for Amnesty International

Harold Cochrane, K.C. and Alyssa Cloutier – Counsel for the Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.

Carly Fox and Jason Erbeznik – Counsel for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Alexandra Heine and Dan Goudge – Counsel for Our Children, Our Way Society

Pierre-Simon Cleary and Sophie Gagné – Counsel for the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission and the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador

Liam Smith, Tuma Young, K.C., Scott Smith, Alexander DeParde – Counsel for the National Children's Chiefs Commission

Anshumala Juyal and Khizer Pervez – Counsel for the Canadian Human Rights Commission