



The Centre itself is at risk of losing 39 long serving, dedicated staff members in each of their departments. Last year the Centre supported over 1000 Inuit children and their families to be strong, healthy, and proud community members with knowledge of their culture, connection to the local Inuit community, and with equitable access to services and programs supported by their families. This poses a massive impact to our Centre and the families that we serve especially with the new proposed changes.

“The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition is deeply concerned about what is happening with the Inuit Children First Initiative. We are a community and if one organization is impacted by funding cuts, all of us are impacted. Where will the Inuit community members go but to our organizations and we are not always best equipped to support them. The OAC fully supports the reinstatement of the Inuit Children First Initiative and to ensure funding is provided for service providers such as Inuuqatigiit Centre who works so hard to support the Inuit community here in Ottawa.” Mary Daoust, Co-Char, OAC.

The Centre calls on the federal government to end this discrimination against Inuit children and families and to restore funding to Inuit Children's First Initiative immediately and to ensure that Service Providers such as Inuuqatigiit Center are still funded for the important work we do supporting the Inuit community here in Ottawa. “These children cannot wait for services and their families cannot afford to pay for these programs out of their own pockets. This is their right and we demand that the federal government live up to their responsibilities in this regard,” said Adams. “There needs to be more action, accountability and commitment by our government to this call for sustained funding and to all the 94 Calls To Action recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.”

“The Inuit Children First Initiative is a vital step in addressing the unique needs of children living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. My child requires expensive treatments and therapy to ensure he can thrive and continue to gain skills. By providing culturally relevant care, education, and resources, we honor and promote his potential and empower children like mine to break the cycle of trauma. My child has accessed CFI for vital services like culturally relevant day care, behaviour therapy, gross motor equipment, Occupational Therapy, and activities. Providing the appropriate services and care for a child with complex needs is expensive, CFI and Inuuqatigiit Centre has lightened the burden of caring for a child that requires this level of intervention. We are more equipped to meet his needs because we can access CFI.” Ashley Hilliard, parent.

For more information and interview requests please contact

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