

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Resumes  
June 2, 3, 2010 (9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)  
11th floor, 160 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, Ontario

Come witness history as the Canadian government tries to derail a full hearing on the facts at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal to determine whether its First Nations child and family services program discriminates against First Nations children by providing a lesser level of child welfare benefit than other children receive.

Numerous reports, including several commissioned by Canada, reveal that the federal government's program is inadequate and inequitable. The only response to inequity by the federal government has been to offer some First Nations a funding formula that was ruled flawed and inequitable by the Auditor General of Canada in her May 2008 report.

The Federal Government filed two actions in Federal Court to try to derail the tribunal and were unsuccessful so they have filed a similar motion at the Tribunal. This motion to dismiss brought by Canada will be the subject of the hearings on June 2, 3, 2010.

The parties opposing Canada's motion include: The Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, Chiefs of Ontario, Canadian Human Rights Commission, and Amnesty International.

First Nations want to see a full and public hearing on the facts. We believe that the safety and well-being of children demands nothing less than that and should be conducted in a public forum to ensure proper accountability of all parties.

We have launched the "I am a witness" campaign that invites caring people of all ages and organizations to sign up to be a witness. Being a witness means you agree to follow the tribunal by either coming in person, through our facebook page, our website or the media. Hear both sides of the story and then make up your own mind about whether or not Canada is treating First Nations children fairly. You can join over 4200 other witnesses by signing up at [www.fnwitness.ca](http://www.fnwitness.ca). It is completely free and takes under two minutes. Show First Nations children that you care enough to watch over them.

Thanks so much and I hope to see you at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal hearing on June 2, 3, 2010

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PS:

The transcripts on the cross examinations of Odette Johnston (INAC) testifying on behalf of Canada's

motion to derail the tribunal on the legal loophole argument that child welfare funding is not a service and Tom Goff, Elsie Flette and Cindy Blackstock arguing against Canada's motion and in favour of a full hearing on the merits are now posted on-line under the tribunal time line at [www.fnwitness.ca](http://www.fnwitness.ca)

Those planning to attend the hearing on June 2 & 3, 2010 may want to read these in advance. Odette Johnston's testimony may represent the first time an INAC official has testified under oath about Canada's current treatment of First Nations children.