

## Letter writing campaign for First Nations funding hits Town Park on Saturday

As a social worker, working with children and families in York Region, the recent issues involving First Nation communities has really distressed me.

I, alongside my co-worker, felt compelled to do something.

We were particularly struck by children expressing that they felt that nobody was listening and that the youth were hurting themselves because of a lack of hope.

We are hosting a walk and letter campaign developed by the First Nations Caring Society to show support and advocate for equal funding for First Nations Communities.

We will have local MPs attending to collect our letters.

We are hoping to collect letters advocating for equitable funding and also more personal letters of support.

First Nations children get less funding for services like education, health and child welfare than all other children enjoy. This makes it hard for First Nations children to achieve their dreams and grow up proud of who they are.

This walk is to show how many people support First Nations children receiving the same opportunity to succeed as all other children in ways that respect their cultures and languages.

The walk is being held on June 11 which is the anniversary of the Prime Minister's apology for Residential Schools.

We are asking for your support and participation in a couple of different ways:

We are inviting community members to write a letter addressed to Parliament advocating for equitable resources for First Nations communities such as education, housing, food security, mental health services, health care, and more!

Children or youth are encouraged to write letters expressing their support to the First Nation youth.

We will be walking with our letters in Aurora at Town Park on June 11 at 10 a.m. to be visible and show that WE CARE!

Lisa Chotowetz

Aurora