

House of Commons

Room 649D Centre Block
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel.: (613) 992-2919
Fax: (613) 995-0747

**Chambre des communes**

Piece 649D, Édifice du Centre
Ottawa (ON) K1A 0A6
Tel. : (613) 992-2919
Fax : (613) 995-0747

Timmins

202-60 Wilson Avenue
Timmins, ON P4N 2S7
Tel.: (705) 268-6464
Fax: (705) 268-6460

Charlie Angus

Member of Parliament for Timmins - James Bay
Député de Timmins - baie James

Kirkland Lake

103A-30 Second Street
Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 3H7
Tel.: (705) 567-2747
Fax: (705) 567-5232

The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
180 Kent Street, Suite 1100
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 0B6
Email: infrc.minister-ministre.infrc@canada.ca

September 16, 2020

Re: Peetabeck Innunuwuk Community Cultural & Recreation Centre Project
(Case #2019-10-1-14192326651)

Dear Minister McKenna:

I am writing to you today to draw your attention to the Peetabeck Innunuwuk Community Cultural & Recreation Centre Project being proposed by the Fort Albany First Nation as part of the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

There is an urgent need in Fort Albany for more culture and recreation community infrastructure and services for its members. That is why the Peetabyck, Iniinuwuk Community Culture & Recreation Centre is designed as a multi-purpose facility that will serve as a central gathering place for the Peetabeck Innunuwuk community. The project will provide new opportunities for cultural recovery and renewal, personal development, and community recreation.

The heart of their proposed facility and its unique community-based cultural and recreational programming is the Peetabeck Inninuwuk Library & Archives. The Centre's Manager/ Librarian will lead the community efforts in collecting, preserving, and contributing to the renewal and growth of Inninuwuk historical knowledge, culture, and language.

This project also addresses several of the "Calls to Action" set out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. It will help this community significantly as they try to

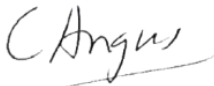
recover from the social disruption of their colonial past, and, in particular, with the traumas and intergenerational traumas arising from the extensive abuses experienced at the former St. Anne residential school in Fort Albany. The programs and activities that this facility will provide will be a major step forward in terms of reconciliation, healing and prosperity community.

Minister, I would hope that you would see the value in this important project as much as I do. This is a chance for the government of Canada to help to heal some of the damage done to these people and provide much-needed infrastructure to bring their community together and chart a new path forward.

I would also like to add that since the precautions brought in due to COVID-19, communities like Fort Albany have become even more cut off and isolated and has made the need for such a centre so very important for this community. While not an immediate fix, the Peetabeck Innunuwuk Community Cultural & Recreation Centre Project will have a lasting and positive impact on this community and the region.

Thank you for considering this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C Angus', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Charlie Angus
Member of Parliament
Timmins-James Bay