



55 University Avenue, 15th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5J 2H7  
[www.archdisabilitylaw.ca](http://www.archdisabilitylaw.ca)

(416) 482-8255 (Main) 1 (866) 482-ARCH (2724) (Toll Free)  
(416) 482-1254 (TTY) 1 (866) 482-ARCT (2728) (Toll Free)  
(416) 482-2981 (FAX) 1 (866) 881-ARCF (2723) (Toll Free)

---

February 28, 2018

Hon. Yasir Naqvi, Attorney General of Ontario  
Sent via email: [ynaqvi.mpp@liberal.ola.org](mailto:ynaqvi.mpp@liberal.ola.org)

Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
Sent via email: [Jody.Wilson-Raybould@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jody.Wilson-Raybould@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Ministers:

**Re: Statement from Southwest Indigenous Justice Coordinators**

ARCH Disability Law Centre endorses the Statement from the Southwest Indigenous Justice Coordinators dated February 23, 2018. ARCH endorses the Statement's call on the Federal and Provincial justice system to commit to implementing the TRC's 94 Calls to Action and the endorsement of the United Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People; "Increased and permanent funding for indigenous specific programs to address the pervasive systemic barriers present in our justice system, and to facilitate a trusting collaborative relationship in which Indigenous Laws and Legal traditions are respected and utilized; An inquiry into Colton Boushie's death as well as the treatment of Colten's family during the investigation process."

The recent verdicts of Gerald Stanley and Raymond Cormier continue to demonstrate the ongoing injustices and pervasive systemic racism that Indigenous people continue to endure across Canada. As a specialty legal clinic focusing on disability rights, ARCH underscores that the prevalence of disability within indigenous communities is twice the national average. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities acknowledged in its Concluding Observations to Canada's Report the extreme marginalization of Indigenous communities in Canada and the lack of access to social supports, employment, health services and education.

In solidarity,  
**ARCH DISABILITY LAW CENTRE**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lattanzio", written over a white background.

**Robert Lattanzio**  
Executive Director

c.

Waterloo Region Community Legal Services

Luane Roberts, Ahwenehaode, Southwest Indigenous Justice Coordinator

Shannon Down, Executive Director

Hamilton Community Legal Services

Lyndon George, Yén:Tene, Southwest Indigenous Justice Coordinator

Hugh Tye, Executive Director

Elgin-Oxford Legal Clinic

Sara George, Tehuwatilihwas Kenháse Ukwékóku, Southwest Indigenous Justice Coordinator

Ken Brooks, Executive Director

Community Legal Assistance Sarnia

Jeff Plain, Baamseedaa, Southwest Indigenous Justice Coordinator

Andrew Bolter, Executive Director

Legal Assistance of Windsor

Shawna Labadie, Interim, Anishnaabe Gwiikchigewin Wiidookaagewin, Southwest Indigenous Justice Coordinator

Shelley Gilbert, Coordinator of Social Work Services, on behalf of Marion Overholt, Executive Director

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

Hon. Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliations

David Field, President and CEO of Legal Aid Ontario

Jayne Mallin, Vice President, Legal Aid Ontario