

Marilyn Noble
People Link
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The Hon. Jean Chretien
Fax: (613) 941-6900

The Hon. Herb Dhaliwal:
Fax: (613) 995-2962 fax

Dear Gentlemen:

As a parent, a private citizen, a community development practitioner working with cultural diversity, and a conflict resolution facilitator serving the United Church of Canada, I would urge each of you to do all that is in your power to ensure that every honest and open-hearted effort is made to ensure peaceful transformation of the conflict in Burnt Church. Like many, I have found it very painful to watch these tensions mount. Please do NOT use aggressive measures to deal with this situation; the risk of bloodshed is much too high. There is nothing to be gained in this situation by violent intervention -- and everything to be lost. It is time to restore "right relationship" among us all.

How will future generations learn to resolve their disagreements peacefully if we fail to lead by example? My thirteen-year-old son says, with a child's great wisdom, that this situation could be resolved by the community's children talking it out together -- free of the hardened positions to which adults seem determined to cling.

When will we learn to respect and honour the different rhythms and worldviews of this country's first inhabitants? Peaceful co-existence and the positive valuing of our differences seem to me to be long overdue.

People Link)
Community Development Practitioner