

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legislative Scrutiny Committee](#)
Subject: For scrutiny committee. First Nations. Universal principle.
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Dear Scrutiny committee, I wish to implore that all those on the case management committees that determine which principles are to be prioritised, for the placement of First Nations children, MUST utilise secret ballot. The votes on where a child is to be placed, are not to be subject to hierarchy of social pressures on younger case workers bowing down to elders, who don't always get it right either. Younger case workers are unable to protect their privacy on how they vote which puts them at risk of appearing to have disobeyed their elders in the committee boardrooms. The so called elders know best principle is further entrenching the kinship principle as being top priority, as we can now see that is not always the truth. Young case workers are up against it, they are between a rock and a hard place. So please protect the votes by Secret Ballot.

No one person should have the right to place a child into care without consensus from a select group of case workers. Foster carers are also very afraid of being called racists, but look to the safety of the child first and foremost, regardless of race, gender, religion etc.

Kind regards,
Julie Allen.