

Thanks for the letter regarding Robert – and the need to help connect with his family and culture. It was well timed – Robert and I actually met with some of the people from Pauktuutit Women's Association who gave Robert a button (which he is now wearing) and they are actually making him some new clothes that reflect his Inuit culture. The women at Pauktuutit also said that they would be pleased to arrange for an Inuit friend for Robert so he can have some company and learn more about his culture, community and family. We also found out that Inuit means a collective of people – but one person of Inuit decent is called an Inuk – so we are both learning together. As I live on my own, Robert was getting a bit bored of hanging around with adults so he came with me to a youth gathering for the last couple of days where there were Aboriginal and non Aboriginal youth – including Inuit youth. The youth thought Robert needed something “hip” so they made him an ankle bracelet which he is now wearing proudly.

Last week Robert, came with me to the United States to Washington DC to meet with the National Indian Child Welfare Association and the Child Welfare League of America – we both ate too much at this terrific deli called “the Bakery” so this week we are both on a healthy eating plan. Robert met up with Terry Cross, the executive director of NICWA and he also went to check out the sites – like the capital building. We have lots of pictures!

Next week Robert is heading off to Nunuvut to meet with Inuit peoples and get to spend time on the lands on which peoples of his culture have lived for millennia – this will be an important time for Robert – so Jennifer and Kathryn have both pledged to make sure he gets all the support he needs.

Thanks for keeping me updated and please keep sending more information as it comes available as it really does help us all support Robert.

Cheers

Cindy