

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN



FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES FEMMES DIPLÔMÉES DES UNIVERSITÉS

July 27th, 2007

Chief William Blair
Toronto Police Service
40 College St.
Toronto, ON.
M5G 2J3

Dear Chief Blair,

On behalf of the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW OC), let me say how deeply disturbed and saddened we are at the recent shooting death of Ephraim Brown. He was only 11 years old.

I read comments in the Toronto Star on July 23rd that Michael Bryant, our Attorney General, would *push Prime Minister Harper to ban handguns, tighten up the gun registry and safe storage rules and enforce the provincial weapons program*. He went on to say that he *will dedicate whatever resources are necessary to eradicate gun crime*.

Solutions to gun crime are multifaceted. It does not just rest with banning handguns, tougher jail sentences, restoring the gun registry for long guns, but actions, such as ending housing projects that see the creation of ghettos and increasing financial support for programs such as *Pathways To Education* and others.

If you do create a task force as suggested by the Attorney General, we would hope that it would be composed of members from law enforcement, the social services, education all acting as a complement to the current *Gun and Gang Task Force* established by the province.

We recognize that establishing such a task force will take money and time. We also recognize that Toronto Police Service, as with all Toronto agencies, is currently under financial constraints. We would therefore hope that the province will also recognize the need for a holistic study with continual community input and support for the task force over the period of time it takes to gain control and maintain that control over this problem.

I would like to thank you and your force in quickly apprehending those responsible for the deadly assault against Ephraim. Preventing yet another *Ephraim* from dying needlessly rests with the political will of our government to bring crime in Ontario under control, the use of resources and input from professionals in all areas and the time and effort of the public to become involved in some productive way.

My organization, CFUW OC is a provincial Council with 6,000 members. We are affiliated with the Canadian Federation of University Women with 10,000 members across Canada. The Toronto Caucus, a group of 1800 members from the seven CFUW Clubs in Toronto, was formed to advocate on issues specific to our city. CFUW Clubs can act on issues on which we have policy. For gun control and action to assist you and your force, our policy is in place.

Gun control is a priority issue for us. We would like to be of assistance. May I ask that you or your assistant contact me to discuss what our organization can do to help.

Sincerely,

Linda MacGregor
President, Ontario Council
Canadian Federation of University Women

cc. The Hon. Dalton McGuinty,
Premier of Ontario
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cc. The Hon. Michael Bryant
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Minister of Education
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