

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN



FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES FEMMES DIPLÔMÉES DES UNIVERSITÉS

July 27, 2007

Hon. Michael Bryant
720 Bay St.
Toronto, ON.
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Dear Minister Bryant,

Please find attached a letter written to Chief William Blair, Toronto Police Service, from the Canadian Federation of University Women Ontario Council (CFUW OC).

An article in the Toronto Star on July 23rd stated that you would *push Prime Minister Harper to ban handguns, tighten up the gun registry and safe storage rules and enforce the provincial weapons program*. You also were quoted as saying that you are *prepared to dedicate whatever resources are necessary to eradicate gun crime*.

The members of CFUW OC support the swift action announced by the Government of Ontario where funds will be available to hire two hundred more police officers, fifty-three of whom will be assigned the task of handling cases involving guns in Ontario that are illegal. We also support the hiring of six new prosecutors assigned the task of prosecuting those who have these illegal firearms in their possession.

These are absolutely necessary steps to dramatically lower the incidents involving guns in our province. Pressuring the United States to take measures to stop the flow of illegal handguns and other firearms should be given top priority. If our neighbours to the south feel that Ontario should implement increased actions to stop the flow of marijuana into their country, this leaves the door open to work in conjunction on these two issues which only serve to erode the productivity and quality of life in both countries. We ask that both law enforcement officers find these sources and vulnerable border points where both guns and marijuana change hands and profit criminals.

Equally essential is for your government to take a more holistic approach to the problem of crime in our communities. It will require a combined effort from different government ministries, provincial police forces, municipal governments, social agencies and non-governmental organizations to study and formulate a long term strategic plan that will address the social and educational issues which play a key role in contributing to crime. I am referring to the level of poverty in our province, the low minimum wage, the lack of affordable housing, housing projects that become ghettos and the high drop-out rate of students, to name but a few.

CFUW Ontario Council is a provincial Council with 6,000 members. We are affiliated with the Canadian Federation of University Women with 10,000 members across Canada. Gun control is a priority issue for us. We ask that your Government follow through on the actions you began in the past and have recently promised in your efforts to stem the increase in guns and crime.

Yours sincerely,

Linda MacGregor
President, Ontario Council
The Canadian Federation of University Women

cc. The Hon. Dalton McGuinty
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