

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

ONTARIO COUNCIL



FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES FEMMES DIPLÔMÉES DES UNIVERSITÉS

March 20th, 2007

Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Rm. 281, Main Legislative Building
Toronto, ON.
M7A 1A4

Re: Family Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006

Dear Premier McGuinty,

It has come to our attention that Section 1 – Arbitration Act, 1991, Section 4 – Courts of Justice Act, and Section 5 – Family Law Act of The Family Statute Law Amendment Act (Bill 27) which will exclude using religious laws in settling family disputes, have yet to be proclaimed.

The other sections of the Act are in force. It is our understanding that regulations are being developed for these remaining sections, and that this is the reason for the delay in proclaiming them and bringing the entire Act into force.

The Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women is extremely concerned about this delay.

Throughout the last two years, the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women has strongly urged the Government of Ontario to exclude the use of religious laws in the resolution of family disputes under the Arbitration Act, 1991.

As a member of the *No Religious Arbitration Coalition* and the Family Law Education for Women (FLEW) project, we urge the Government of Ontario to end the delay in completing the regulations for sections 1, 4 and 5 of the Family Statute Law Amendment Act and bring these most fundamental sections into force.

We ask for your support to protect the rights of women and finish what was promised on September 11, 2005.

Yours sincerely,

Linda MacGregor
President

cc.

John Tory, MPP,
Leader, Official Opposition
Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

Howard Hampton, MPP
Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario

The Hon. Sandra Pupatello
Minister of Economic Development & Trade
Minister Responsible for Women's Issues

The Hon. Michael Bryant
Attorney General
Ministry of the Attorney General

Deborah Matthews, MPP
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues

Christine Elliott, MPP
Critic, Women's Issues & Attorney General

David Zimmer, MPP
Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General

Robert Runciman, MPP
Critic, Attorney General

Andrea Horwath, MPP
Critic, Women's Issues