

CLUB LETTERHEAD

March ..., 2007

*Your MPP (name)
(address)*

Dear (name of MPP)

Three sections 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 sections involved are:

Section 1 – Arbitration Act, 1991
Section 4 – Courts of Justice Act
Section 5 – Family Law Act

The other sections of the Act are now 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 Canadian Federation of University Women (*club name*) 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. It is imperative that all who live in Ontario, regardless of culture, language or faith, be governed by the same laws – laws of Ontario and of Canada – and not be subjected to arbitration that is based on religious or other laws which are not in conformity with those of our province or our country. This is the intent of the Family Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006.

We hope that you, as our locally elected MPP, recognize that women have made important steps toward gender equity and should not be placed in a position to see their rights abrogated and subjected to privatized resolution. We ask you to urge the Government to end the delay in completing the regulations for sections 1, 4 and 5 of the Family Statute Law Amendment Act and bring it into force.

We ask for your support in urging the Government of Ontario to protect the rights of women and finish what Premier McGuinty promised to do on September 11, 2005.

Yours sincerely,

President
CFUW (*club name*)