

The Honourable Archie Campbell  
Commissioner, SARS Commission  
c/o Public Hearings  
180 Dundas Street West  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
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September 11, 2003

Dear Commissioner:

The Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women(CFUW) wishes to address the SARS Commission, preferably on Monday, September 29th or on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003

CFUW Ontario Council is made up of approximately 6000 women university graduates from all the regions of Ontario. We are totally self - funded. Our members live in large urban areas as well as in rural and northern towns. We are non - partisan and non- sectarian. We are business women, scientists, teachers, university professors, nurses and physicians, seed specialists and engineers, farm women, artists and accountants, wives, daughters, mothers and grandmothers. All put their skills and education at the service of their community. We are active and work in all public affairs , advocating for a high standard of public education, for the improvement of the Status of Women in Ontario, and to ensure Human Rights in the Province.

CFUW Ontario Council members watched with great concern the unfolding of the SARS health crisis and its social and economic consequences. While we applaud the selfless service of all the health professionals we deplore the deaths of in the line of duty.

As long as infected cases emerged, Ontarians all over the Province were in a heightened state of anxiety and worried about their families, about parents and their children getting sick .

As advocates for the rights of the individual and particularly for women we should like to address the responsibility of all levels of governments to cooperate to protect the public and the front-line workers from communicable deadly diseases and their spreading.

Aspects of this protection will necessitate the establishment and funding of

- an agency (similar to the Centre for Disease Control in the United States) dealing with the immunological research and advice.
- centres of trustworthy information and education for the public as to the symptoms of the disease and practical prevention and protection from infection with the disease
- technologically up-to-date communication systems that are able to link the provincial Ministry of Health with all the health care institutions at once.
- vigilance in the nationwide immunization of children and preparedness for new and emerging infectious diseases
- the establishment and funding for training of health personnel about infection control in hospitals
- funding enough full time health care personnel so that itinerant health workers will not spread the infection from hospital to hospital in the large cities.
- a well funded strong health care system that can also look after all the other health care needs during an infectious disease crisis
- Public Health Units with consistent programs and mandates with regard to infectious diseases

We hope to be able to express the above concerns and their underlying reasoning directly to your Commission.

Sincerely,  
 Edeltraud Neal  
 President, Ontario Council CFUW  
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Presenters:

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