

Lynn Emerson-Walsh
29 Elm St.
Hamilton, Ontario L8M 1Y2
905-544-2036

August 14, 2001.

The Right Hon. Jean Chretien, The Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

**RE: Flawed Federal – Provincial – Territorial Consultations
on Custody and Access**

I am writing to express my deepest outrage concerning the Department of Justice hearings on custody and access being held across in Canada. On June 22, 2001, I attended the consultation meeting being held in London, Ontario by the Department of Justice as an invited participant and representative of the Family Advocacy Network. A couple of important issues relating to these hearings have left me deeply disturbed.

Invitation to attend private “women’s only” meetings

A couple of days prior to attending the Department of Justice consultation meeting in London, I received a private telephone call from someone either from the Justice Department or the consulting firm asking me if I wanted to attend the regularly scheduled mixed group of participants at the London consultation or to be part of a specially selected and private group that would be “**for women only**” as there had been some “concerns” expressed. Up to that point, I certainly was not aware of any special groups being put together for women only and certainly had not seen any such information on any published materials being circulated about the Justice Department Consultations.

To put it bluntly, as a woman, I was outraged to have received such a call. After the call I felt utterly disgusted that the Department of Justice would even allow such calls to be made behind the backs of the other participants at these hearings. **My response to the caller was, “I believe this is part of the problem!!”**

From such flagrant bias, discrimination and stereotyping, I can only conclude that a number of special interest groups which are made up of women (many of whom lead alternate sexual lifestyles) are falsely claiming to represent the women of Canada. These women certainly don’t represent me nor do they represent any of the other women that I associate with. As blatantly and obviously demonstrated by the behaviours and actions of some of the consultation participants, it seems that these so called special interest groups get lots of free money from the government and have a vested interest in having the Department of Justice incorporate their own agendas in any new

laws or policies so that they can keep the millions of taxpayer's dollars flowing exclusively to their own biased, anti-father and anti-family organizations.

It seems to me and to many other women I associate with, that it is the women from these "special interest" groups who are agitating inequality and sabotaging the health and well being of children and families by not mediating, negotiating or coming to the table. They hide behind the banner of equality and domestic violence but in reality are merely manipulating the system for more power, control and more of our tax dollars.

These groups are an insult to women, like myself, who have healthy relationships with men in society and who truly believe in equality and that children are not property to be awarded in family court to one party when couples separate just because of the fears and misconceptions of malicious mothers.

I am appalled to think that the Justice Department would subvert the process of justice, equality and fairness to children and families by even considering having special sessions just for women. This is totally unacceptable! The propaganda of these special interest groups "not to cave into a father's rights groups agenda" is repugnant to me. At least most of the fathers groups can claim they are fighting for equality and fairness and support the concept of shared parenting and the right to parent their children as mandated under the law.

Any faction of society, such as the National Association of Women and the Ontario Women's Network on Custody and Access, who put forth such anti-male or anti-family propaganda are not only subverting the Children's Law Reform Act, The United Nation's Rights of The Child, and The Charter of Rights and Freedoms held sacrosanct by those who respect and value justice but are directly responsible and accountable for a transparent treason which is undermining our Canadian society. Such individuals must be flushed out of their holes and they themselves, brought to justice for their crimes.

When is the Justice Department going to wake up to the fact we are in the 21st century and to accept the fact that the majority of Canadians want fairness and equality restored to our courts? When is the Department of Justice going to make improvements to laws that Canadians want and need and to stop supporting these special interest groups that abuse government funding and are responsible for abuse of our children? It's obvious to me that those in the Justice Department, including the Minister herself, don't want justice for children and families in this country but are motivated to further their own perverse agendas.

Flawed consultation process with a hidden agenda

The other issue which deeply concerns me is the flawed process in which the whole consultation process was conducted. It seemed from the very beginning of the meeting, there was an agenda to ensure the status quo for women and the legal industry when it comes to family law. It seemed that not only were the questions on the consultation questionnaires selected by Department of Justice bureaucrats, but the answers as well. The answers that many people in our group supported and would have liked to see on the answer sheets were not part of responses that participants could choose from nor did the facilitators support. It seemed very clear that the consultation process was designed to support a certain prearranged direction with the consultations themselves merely a way in which the Department of Justice could bring credibility to their continued deception of the

Canadian people by giving lip service to those at these consultation meetings whose views they really did not want to hear.

I have been following the developments in the custody and access arena for a few years now and it seems clear to me that these consultations were intended to be part of a plan by McLellan and her ill-informed bureaucrats to deceive our elected representatives into thinking that their plan to supply even more services, at greater expense to the taxpayers, had the support of Canadians. In reality, the best thing that the Department of Justice could do for Canadian children and their families would be to get the courts and the lawyers out of the lives of Canadian families.

To put it bluntly, the consultation process reeked of a hidden agenda which seemed geared to preserve the status quo in family court and to ensure the continued destruction of children and their families. The process seemed neither accountable nor credible. The public did not attend, nor were the media invited to attend. Guards were posted outside the doors to keep people out.

Time for action by our elected representatives

I urge you, as an elected member of parliament, to voice your objection to the manner in which Justice Minister Anne McLellan and her band of hoodlum civil servants are attempting to thwart the wishes of Canadians and further harm children and families by hoodwinking Parliament and attempting to impose their anti-family, anti-father and pro-feminist agenda on Canadians.

Myself, as do most Canadians want fairness. We want equality. We want accountability and openness. We want justice restored to our family courts and we want the adversarial system taken out of family law. Most importantly, children want and need both parents in their lives and this must be recognized in our courts and clearly defined by legislation. We want this now, not after years of delay as McLellan seems to want to keep us waiting.

I urge you to do something immediately to put an end to this meddling by the Department of Justice in politics and its apparent attempt to subvert the wishes of Canadians. The future of our children and of Canada rests on our elected representatives. The malaise of indifference to the incalculable human suffering the Department of Justice, with Anne McLellan in the lead, is responsible and accountable for due to their inaction is unconscionable and reprehensible. The very honour, decency and integrity of our Parliament and its willingness to ensure democracy for the people of Canada is at stake in light of the Justice Department's affront to Parliament and the Canadian people.

Your response to my concerns and call for action would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Emerson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn Emerson-Walsh