

**Mr. Les White
484 Leslie Bay
Brandon, Manitoba
R7A 2C9**

Sent by fax – 4 pages total

August 27, 2002.

The Right Hon. Jean Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada
Room 309-S, Centre Block
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A OA6

Dear Prime Minister:

**When is Canada going to stop abusing children and fathers
with its utterly disgraceful family court system?**

My name is Les White, the father of Darrin Bruce White. My son Darrin committed suicide in March of 2000 as a result of the bias in our courts against men and the injustices that are routinely perpetrated against innocent children and their fathers by Canada's utterly disgraceful, morally corrupt and broken-down family court system.

Just prior to his death, Darrin was a railway engineer who worked for B.C. Rail in Prince George. As a result of the stresses put on him by the family court process, an ex-wife who cut off meaningful access to his children, and a family court system which is stacked against justice for fathers, he was on stress leave and earning only about \$2200 per month. His cash flow was nil and his assets were frozen by the courts.

Yet with an income of only \$2200 per month he was ordered by the court to pay \$1071 in child support and another \$1000 in spousal support to his wife for a total of \$2071. He was given 48 hours to vacate his home and ordered to come up with the payments immediately. The fact that Darrin had another child from a previous marriage did not seem to matter to the court. In fact, his needs to survive and his other daughter's needs were totally ignored in the calculation of payments to the mother. The family court system did not care whether my son had enough money to survive or provide for other children and it would seem that Federal Child Support Guidelines are unjustly stacked against non-custodial parents. The guidelines don't even taken into account how much a non-custodial parent may need to maintain a bare minimal, yet dignified, living.

Even though my son's wife was also a qualified railroad engineer and fully able to work, the court did not consider it necessary for her work or to contribute to the children. It was a simple case where a loving and caring father was made to pay no matter what the circumstances and where an uncooperative and controlling mother was allowed through support of the family court system to torment the father using the children as pawns and then keep everything.

Burdened by the court's order for custody to the mother, support payments which were beyond his financial means, coupled with the fact that the mother was interfering with his relationship with his children and the fact that the courts did nothing to stop her, it was too much for Darrin to bare. In his state of despair he lost the ability to cope and seeing no way out, Darrin took his own life on March 13, 2000. It was a tragic loss for not only the children, but the whole family. Darrin was a good, loving father, who deeply loved his children.

Any honest lawyer will tell men that they won't get treated fairly in Canada's family court system. In Canada there simply is no justice for children and fathers in our family court system. The average person on the street knows it as well and public perception is spreading that Canada's family court system is nothing more than a horrible nightmare for most.

What I find utterly contemptuous to the citizens of this country is that two years after my son's tragic and needless death, the Canadian Justice Department still seem to be thwarting efforts to bring relief to the many children and families suffering persecution and injustice in our family court system. When I spoke to then Justice Minister, Ann McLellan after my son's death, she assured me that changes were coming. But changes never did come. The only thing to come was more empty promises and more flawed and unaccountable studies controlled by Justice Department bureaucrats intended to twist the truth to the politicians of what Canadians really want in our family courts. All McLellan did was to cleverly delay changes while she was in office. Now that she has moved from the Justice Department and dodged her promises, she has passed the buck on to the current Justice Minister. However, it now seems as if Justice Minister Cauchon is towing the same position being supported by the same Justice Ministry bureaucrats who want to keep the system the way it is now, likely the same bureaucrats who got McLellan to maintain the status quo.

These sorts of delays by those in our Justice Department are treasonous. How many more Canadian children and families are going to suffer before meaningful changes are made to restore justice in our courts? How much longer is our Department of Justice and its bureaucrats going to go against the wishes of the Canadian people? It time for the Justice Minister to stand up to the bureaucrats in his ministry and clean house and fire the lot of them. It's time for some fresh faces in the Justice Ministry. It's time for new ideas from people who have a true desire to improve justice for the benefit of all Canadians, not promote radical feminist ideology for the benefit of just one gender in society, as seems to be the case now.

Because of Canada's Justice system, my son is dead and his children continue to be denied any kind of meaningful access to our family. For my wife and myself just to be able to see our grandchildren for a short day visit we had to threaten the mother with legal action. My other granddaughter, Ashlee White is still unable to communicate with her siblings because of the mother's actions to block our grandchildren's access and communication to family members on our side of the family. My grandchildren are being denied the right to have any kind of a relationship with their own sister and other extended family members. This is so terribly, terribly wrong. This is child abuse! This is a crime! Yet, the Canadian Justice Department seems to encourage this form of child abuse.

If Canada had full and equal shared parenting legislation in place when my son separated from his wife, chances are that he would be alive today and our grandchildren would be benefiting from a father in their lives and from contact with their extended family members. As it now stands, the

very fabric of our family has been torn apart and our belief in the Canadian Justice System totally shattered. My little grandson still cries for his father.

I was born and raised in this country and once stood tall and proud as a Canadian but I can no longer say that I am proud to be a part of this nation we call Canada as a result of what Canada's Justice system has done to my family. It deeply saddens me as a Canadian to see how justice has withered away for fathers and their children in this country. While the government may try to fool the world into thinking that Canada is the land of the strong and free, many Canadians and their families know otherwise. It won't take long for people in the rest of the world to see through the smoke and mirrors and to learn about Canada's dark secret of its biased anti-father family courts. Canada is not the country where fathers should be bringing their families to settle.

When are the politicians in this country going to stand up and do something to restore justice in our family courts and to remove the feminist politics which seem to be in control of Canada's Justice Department? As it stands now, our family courts are nothing but a joke and the judges and Department of Justice, not our elected representatives, seem to be making the laws in this country.

Children, parents and entire families are currently being destroyed by current Canadian policies related to family law. It's time for the carnage of families to stop in this country. It's time that full shared parenting legislation be implemented in our family court system so that equality and justice can once again be restored. It's time that this country stop destroying its good, loving fathers.

Your comments at your earliest convenience would be appreciated.

Yours truly,

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

Attachment: Copy of an article from a Canadian grandmother published in the Prince George Citizen after my son's death.

cc: all foreign embassies & consulates in Canada
various news media agencies
various children and parent rights groups worldwide
various E mail distribution lists and websites worldwide

Father's rights ignored

The Prince George Citizen-Tuesday, July 11, 2000.

As a mother and grandmother, I think it is imperative that I take the time to express my concerns to father; rights in legal separation situations.

The harshness of our legal system has no mercy on the fathers who, in many cases, suffer the brunt of this abuse.

Many fathers are destroyed by the effects of such an unfair system.

It is not difficult to imagine why so many fathers have nervous breakdowns or commit suicide.

I know of four suicides and at least five attempts. This alone tells us something is wrong with the system.

One loss of life is too many.

My heart aches for the fathers and children who have been separated by long distance-no amount of tears will cure the emptiness and sense of loss they must go through.

Fathers want to be active in their children's lives and children need a father. Children want mommy and daddy at their Christmas concerts, sports events and to be able to give their father a Father's Day card personally.

I would like to see some changes in the legal system and with the maintenance agreements.

Shared parenting for the sake of the mothers not being able to move long distances.

Reasonable support payments. Mother's should not be allowed to move long distances with the children.

Reasonable support payments so a man can live a decent life.

Mothers are taking off and moving a long distance with the children and fathers don't find out until days later. Why is maintenance enforced but access isn't?

If children's needs were given priority when separation occurred, both parents would be involved in their lives. Many children carry emotional scars for the rest of their lives after separation.

Father and child relationships are presently being ruined by our current laws. Many fathers are stressed out mentally and financially, some are thousands of dollars in debt to the courts and lawyers where this money could be used for the needs of the children's education, etc.

When mothers move away long distances, fathers pay high support payments and only see their children two or three times a year. That's sad for fathers and children.

I wonder how many mothers would want their children taken away from them and only be able to see them two or three times a year?

We need laws changed so men and women have equal rights "for the sake of the children"

June Berry
Prince George B.C.