



National Shared Parenting Association (Sask)

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**The Honourable Jean Chretien
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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February 3, 1999

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Follow up to our January 20, 1999 letter describing the activities of Mrs. Kripa Sekhar of the Saskatchewan Action Committee on the Status of Women (SAC) and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC), we have further corroborating evidence to support our findings.

In our January 20 letter, we described how Mrs. Sekhar had been recruiting the ex-wives of the National Shared Parenting Association's (NSPA) members in a campaign to discredit these men, for SAC/NAC's gender-biased political gain. We found that these unethical activities were reprehensible and asked if the Federal Government, namely Minister for the Status of Woman Hedy Fry, would stop funding such injurious activities.

On Friday, January 22/99, our local Regina Leader Post newspaper ran an article (copy enclosed) about our January 20 letter of complaint to you. Within that article, Mrs. Sekhar denied that she had been in contact with the former wives of NSPA members. It is certainly her prerogative if she wants to contact anyone she wishes, but her denial in the article alludes to her own admittance that contacting former wives of our group to advance her political agenda would be tantamount to unethical practices.

On January 26/99, Ms. Germaine Collins wrote a letter to the editor (copy enclosed) in praise of Mrs. Sekhar and a charity for shelters for abused women. Ms. Collins is separated from one of our most prominent spokespeople, Blaine Collins. Germaine and Blaine are in the throws of an acrimonious divorce, where custody of the children is in disagreement. Ms. Collins is seeking sole custody and Mr. Collins is seeking a shared parenting/joint custody arrangement. Of course the letter by Ms. Collins is not prima facie evidence that Mrs. Sekhar is contacting these women, but is undoubtedly more than a coincidence.

On January 29, 1999, NSPA member Randy Liberet talked to the University of Regina Student Union representative Jamie Reban on the telephone. Mr. Liberet had initially called Ms. Reban to find out their

policy regarding postings on University bulletin boards. During the conversation, Ms. Reban told Mr. Liberet that Kripa Sekhar had formed a group called The Ex-Wives of NSPA Members.

In addition to the activities of Ms. Collins and the corroboration supplied by Ms. Reban, members of the NSPA have heard from their children that their mothers have attended “meetings” at the residence of SAC/NAC member Jeannette Gill-Skulski where Mrs. Sekhar was also present.

There is nothing preventing Ms. Sekhar from contacting ex-wives of NSPA members during or after their divorce proceedings, but we question Mrs. Sekhar’s motives for doing so by forming a political group comprised of these women. We surmise that Mrs. Sekhar seeks to discredit the work that the NSPA is doing for children, as she has publicly and privately stated that she is not in agreement with shared parenting as a ‘starting point’ after divorce, and has vowed to “fight it all the way.”

It has not been an uncommon practice for Mrs. Sekhar to become personally involved in divorce matters with the wives of NSPA members as stated in our January 20/99 letter. We feel that SAC/NAC have formulated a campaign, which is centered around personal attacks on members of the NSPA. What is most shocking to us as parents, is the fact that our children are around the contempt and hatred for their fathers openly displayed by Ms. Sekhar. Both the children of Blaine Collins and Randy Liberet have disclosed that Ms. Sekhar “doesn’t like” their fathers. To participate in the alienation of children is totally unacceptable and is an amoral act. Children are not to be used as political pawns nor should they be witnesses to such condemnation of either of their parents.

As concerned parents involved in a gender-neutral child-advocacy group, we implore you to investigate the actions of SAC/NAC and Kripa Sekhar. We do not believe the Canadian public should be funding these types of adversarial and unethical activities against non-custodial parents. These activities ultimately impact children the most.

Awaiting your swift reply,

Adrianna Conrad,
President – NSPA (Saskatchewan)

Cc:

Danny Guspie - Executive Director/NSPA; Randy Liberet - Vice President/NSPA; Melynda Jarratt - Chair/Human Rights Committee - NSPA; The Honourable Hedy Fry, Secretary of State (Status of Women)

The Honourable Anne McLellan, Minister of Justice; The Honourable John Nilson, Sask. Minister of Justice; The Honourable Joan Crawford, Sask. Minister of the Women's Secretariat; Betty Anne Potruff, Sask. Justice; Chief Calvin Johnston, Regina City Police; The National Media