

Aug. 12, 1999

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The Honourable Prime Minister Jean Chretien
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
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Dear Mr. Chretien

Destruction of Canada's children by your family justice system

Recently, I made a trip to Canada and the U.S.A. to visit relatives. As a result of my visit to Canada I am writing this letter to express how shocked I am to learn about how the family justice system in Canada abuses children and families, including the youngest members of my own family in Canada.

I have two nieces, ages 10 and 12 who live in the Toronto Area of Ontario, Canada. During my visit to Ontario, my brother tried to arrange for me to spend some meaningful time with my nieces. Unfortunately, his former wife prevented him from doing so. Instead, she forced the children to stay at home and watch television alone while she worked. The mother would not allow the children any extra time to visit with my brother or myself.

During my trip, I found out that because my brother is considered a non-custodial parent in his country he has all of his rights to see his children stripped from him by the government. He is a good father who very much loves his children and has never done anything to harm them.

The children's mother, who is the custodial parent, prevents the children from seeing not only their father, but their father's extended family as well. The children are allowed only one day every other weekend to see their father. They are allowed no additional time with him in the summer, contrary to their wishes. The mother has never allowed the children to visit their grandparents in our home country of Mexico, even though they would very much like to do so. The children are afraid to even express their wishes to their mother out of fear of what her reaction may be.

When I visited Ontario, I was allowed to see my nieces for only one day of my stay. Instead, the mother chose to have the children stay at home and watch TV while she worked. The mother who is very vindictive and selfish person is a worker with the Children's Aid Society of Ontario. How ironic it is that a person hired by your government to work in the best interest of Canadian children puts her own selfish interests ahead of the needs and wishes of her own children. Just what kind of job can

this type of person be expected to do for other children with this type of attitude? What is even more troubling is that the Canadian Justice System seems to support her behavior. I know that my brother is a good father and I know that my nieces do not want their mother controlling them as she does. Yet the Canadian Justice System allows a vindictive and controlling mother to virtually lock up these children, ignore their wishes and needs and bring misery to many other family members. The justice system has virtually robbed these children of their heritage and support of their extended family by allowing their vindictive mother to keep them from seeing or knowing their many relatives on their father's side of the family.

Although my country may not be considered as advanced or as economically well off as yours, I must say that for your nation, with the wealth that it has, the way it treats its children of separated families is beyond belief.

Canada has long been admired for its standard of living and its generosity in helping developing countries of the world. Like myself, however, many outside of your country are beginning to hear the horror stories of how Canadian children and their families are being broken apart by the policies of their own government. Many are beginning to wonder if Canada is really as great a nation and as good a place to live as we have been led to believe.

Many of the children in our country live in poverty because our country as a nation is poor. Yet your country, with so much wealth and prosperity, allows its own system of justice to destroy families and force them into poverty through the court system. Maybe life in our country for our children is not so bad after all. Many of our children may be poor due to circumstances beyond the control of the country, but many of them do not have to suffer the unnecessary deprivation of a parent and family members through intervention of their own government. In our country, families support members of their own family, both young and old.

I hope that for the sake of the future of the children in your country that those in a position to stop the needless destruction of your children would do something to put an end to this tragedy. This is not the way that a country like Canada should be treating its own children. Your children are your most valuable resource. They are the future of your nation. To someone looking from the outside the borders of your country, it does not look like those in your country who are responsible for the best interests of children are doing a good job in taking care of that valuable resource.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Narvaez', written in a cursive style.

Teresa Narvaez

cc: all Members of Canadian Parliament