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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIBERALS CALL FOR ACTION TO CURB VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION

QUEEN'S PARK --- Ontario Liberal Leader Lyn McLeod and Dianne Poole, Liberal Critic for Women's Issues, are challenging the NDP government to take action to protect the women and children of the province.

"Action is needed in three specific areas," McLeod said. "Before the Legislature resumes on October 31st, we challenge the NDP to enact regulations prohibiting juvenile girls from dancing in strip clubs, to implement a program to check the proliferation of violent slasher films, and take action to keep serial killer trading cards out of the hands of children."

Their challenge to Attorney General Marion Boyd includes a draft regulation which, under the Liquor Licence Act, would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to work in an adult entertainment establishment.

"A simple regulatory change would solve the problem - all it requires is cabinet approval," McLeod stated. "It is criminal that nothing has been done to protect these young girls from exploitation."

Both McLeod and Poole, the M.P.P. for Eglinton, have been pressing the government for the past 18 months to stop the proliferation of violent slasher films, which graphically depict the torture, mutilation and death of young women.

While there have been repeated expressions of concern by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations for two years, Marilyn Churley has still not introduced a sticker program to classify videos and an enforcement mechanism to ensure strict compliance with the Theatres Act, which regulates the level of violence in films and videos.

"We are challenging the NDP government to stop giving us empty promises and finally take action to stop the proliferation of these appalling films," Poole said.

In July of 1993, Poole introduced a private member's bill that would ban the sale of serial killer trading cards to minors.

"Serial killer cards glorify violence and the most heinous crimes. If this government really cares about our children, it's time it took action in this area too, and made a commitment to prohibit the sale of these cards to children."

McLeod emphasized that action in all three areas could proceed quickly if the NDP could muster the political will to act.

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