



Canadian Teachers' Federation

Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

March 9, 2007

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

Ending Violence Against Women: Action for Real Results, is Canada's theme for International Women's Day, 2007. The theme is supposed to reflect Canada's approach to addressing gender-based violence and provide an opportunity to focus attention on violence against women and girls in Canadian Society. It also speaks to the consideration of concrete measures to end this social problem. Unfortunately, recent Statistics Canada reports show that violence against women in Canada remains a serious problem.

One way we can show concrete evidence of our support for measures designed to address violence against women and girls is to lend support to the passage of Bill C-254.

Bill C-254 is a private member's bill introduced in May 2006 by liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj (Etobicoke Center). If passed, the Bill will expand the definition of an "identifiable group" under the hate propaganda provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada to include any section of the public distinguished by its gender. This is long overdue.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) wishes to indicate that it supports Bill C-254 and expresses the hope that the Bill will receive the support of your government in providing protection under Canadian law against hate propaganda directed toward girls and women.

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The Canadian Teachers' Federation is the national, bilingual umbrella organization for teachers in Canada. CTF has 16 provincial and territorial Member organizations and one Affiliate Member representing over 215,000 teachers across Canada. CTF is the national voice of teachers and coordinates and facilitates the sharing of ideas, knowledge and skills among its Members and Affiliate Member. Violence against women is an issue of concern for all our Members.

Sincerely yours,

Winston Carter
President

cc: The Honourable Robert Nicholson, Minister of Justice and the
Attorney General of Canada
The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Leader of the Official Opposition
Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Québécois
Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party
Marlene Jennings, Liberal Justice Critic
Réal Ménard, BQ Justice Critic
Joe Comartin, NDP Justice Critic
Maria Minna, Liberal Critic for women's issues
Nicole Demers, BQ Critic for women's issues
Irene Mathyssen, NDP Critic for women's issues
Emily Noble, President of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
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