

**Subject:** [Fwd: CORRECTIONS to Family CYJCommittee letter.]

**Date:** Fri, 14 Mar 2003 12:02:37 -0800

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** CORRECTIONS to Family CYJCommittee letter.

**Date:** Fri, 14 Mar 2003 10:16:35 -0700

**From:** Elise Roberts <[eliseroberts@shaw.ca](mailto:eliseroberts@shaw.ca)>

**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <[fonvca@fonvca.org](mailto:fonvca@fonvca.org)>

Dear FONVCA MEMBERS: Could you please delete the original article to Pat Heal and Larry Orr which is now posted on the web site and submit the following letters instead. There are important corrections. It was originally sent to Ernie Criste.

Thank you,

Elise Roberts

**To All Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly  
and Other Organizations Who Care About Children and Families**

Equal Parenting Group Society

Elise Roberts / Director

#134 – 1055 Premier St.

North Vancouver, B.C., V7J 3T7

Tel: (604) 986-4892      Fax: (604) 986-4862

Email: [eliseroberts@shaw.ca](mailto:eliseroberts@shaw.ca)

March 6, 2003

Attn: Pat Heal: Chair

Family Court and Youth Justice Committee:

City of North Vancouver

District of North Vancouver

City of West Vancouver

Dear Ms. Heal,

I have just learned of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee and was truly surprised that, after 2 years of consulting with social planners about starting a society to assist non-custodial fathers in crisis, we were never advised about this committee **nor encouraged to participate in it**, especially when it is **very specific** to our society's mandate and mission statement.

The fact that it only addresses Family Justice with respect to "violence against women in relationships," is deplorable. This is only a small part of Family Law, yet the committee is entirely focused on the issue of violence against women. The committee focus is outdated and only reflects one small aspect of Family Law. **It is a hangover from biased NDP anti-male policies and must be changed to reflect updated information from Statistics Canada and the disturbing realities that non-custodial fathers are facing in Family Court.** This committee and the recommendations that stem from it, cannot possibly be in the best interests of children.

The violence against women hysteria has created a huge bias against fathers in family court. It has served only to spread fear and prejudice against males, thereby creating a male unfriendly society. It has served to create policies that push fathers further out of the family, even when statistics show that more child abuse is committed by single mothers. **In essence, it has created more social problems that it has solved them.**

The Violence Against Women industry has set up a series of very strong incentives for mothers to make false claims against fathers. For example, regardless of a woman's economic status, she would qualify for legal aid if she claimed to be fleeing violence and risked losing access to her children. She would get automatic interim custody of her children with an ex parte order. Women who claim to be fleeing violence do not have to participate in the 2 year employability test with Income Assistance. Women who claim to be fleeing violence also qualify for free employment training. Women also get free advice and legal services via transition houses, regardless of the fact that transition houses do not ask for proof that abuse actually occurred. This adds further artillery to the case for custody, even though the claim may be proven wrong in court. **Given these strong incentives, how can anyone deny that false claims exist?**

There is no denying that Family Law needs change and must focus on the needs of children. This was the sole reason for the 5 year long national study "For the Sake of the Children Campaign," which consulted all Canadians, not just the opinion of radical feminists. More updated information from Statistics Canada indicates that both men and women are victims of domestic violence. Single mothers are more often the perpetrators of

child abuse, yet these policies push fathers out of the family, thereby contributing to an increase in child abuse. If this committee is to truly serve the needs of the community, it must address ALL ASPECTS of Family Law, otherwise it speaks to a human rights issue under Section 7 of the Human Rights Act.

I would also like to inquire how this committee gathers its information? Do you have representatives that attend family court cases? Do you gather information on people's personal files? We are currently coordinating volunteers to gather all documentation, minutes, policies, correspondence etc. regarding this committee in order to analyze it for bias.

We are linked with father's rights groups across the nation who agree that the radical feminist violence agenda is destructive to families and the biased agenda of this committee is just part of the problem. The biggest issue regarding false allegations against fathers is this: Balance of Probabilities versus Beyond a Reasonable Doubt. The standards for protection of the accused are much less rigid in Family Court than they are in criminal court. If women have all the community support to add artillery to false allegations, and to prove these "probabilities" and men have no community support, then I ask **IS THIS A DEMOCRACY?** This is a breach of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, equal representation under the law.

**Our members collectively have indicated very strong evidence to the following -**

**Regarding men being victims of spousal abuse:**

- That many males have been victims of spousal abuse, both psychological and physical
- That males have been seriously injured by females
- That men themselves have been arrested when they are in fact the victims
- That females do not get arrested when they commit spousal assault, even in front of witnesses

**Regarding false allegations against fathers in Family Court:**

- That false allegations are rampant in Family Court
- That perjury is rampant in Family Court
- That fathers lose access to their children for lengthy periods of time due to false allegations
- That even when allegations are proven wrong, they continue to haunt fathers through the entire court process and lose access to their children regardless
- That service providers have encouraged women to make false allegations in order to win custody
- That lawyers have encouraged women to make false allegations in order to win custody
- That women have made fraudulent calls to the RCMP when fathers come to pick up children for their regular access visits and men have been arrested regardless

**Regarding Service Providers:**

- That service providers have encouraged women to make false allegations in order to win custody
- That service providers have added artillery to false allegations by supporting women with letters based on fraudulent information

- That service providers have participated in coercing children against their fathers in counseling
- That, in one incident, when a woman, who was violent towards her husband and abusive towards her children, called a service provider to seek help for her problem, she was told to pretend that she was the victim and to take her children and leave the house
- That transition house workers have encouraged women to stage incidences that would provoke anger in a man in order to further the mother's case for custody
- That there is no process by which service providers nor transition houses ask for verification of the truth around spousal assault in order not to waste taxpayers money.
- That women go to transition houses, even when they are not victims of violence, to get put to the top of assisted housing lists
- That there is a huge lack of awareness and, in fact an orchestrated denial, amongst established service providers about false allegations against fathers
- Than service providers are not taking initiatives to educate themselves about this issue, despite knowledge of the national campaign to bring changes to Family Law

**Regarding the emotional health of men as a result of false allegations:**

- That men have committed suicide
- That men are suffering from severe mental, physical and emotional health issues
- That men are suffering from financial ruin due to the Family Court process
- That there is no funding specific to services for men

We also have evidence that grandparents are denied access to their grandchildren for lengthy periods of time due to false allegations against their sons.

Given that Family Court and Youth Justice Committees are provincially mandated and therefore in every municipality, Equal Parenting Group Society of North Vancouver has started a provincial campaign to raise awareness about this prejudicial process. We will be contacting other fathers groups around the province, gathering evidence and contacting the Attorney General's office.

We expect to be heard on this issue and will NOT be shut out of the process any longer.

Sincerely,

Elise Roberts

Mayor and Council: CNV / DNV / DWV

**To All Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly  
and Other Organizations Who Care About Children and Families**

Elise Roberts

#134 - 1055 Premier St.  
North Vancouver, B.C.  
(604) 986-4892 Fax: (604) 986-4862  
email: [eliseroberts@shaw.ca](mailto:eliseroberts@shaw.ca)

March 10, 2003

Larry Orr  
Social Planning

City of North Vancouver

Dear Larry,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful call on Friday. Equal Parenting Group would be very pleased to appear as a delegation before the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee on April 17th, 2003.

We would only require 5 minutes to present statistics, articles and evidence to the need for understanding around fathers' Family Court issues. We also have some questions about the Court Watch program. One of our goals this year is to appear before service provider groups as well, such as the Family Justice Centre, Family Services of the North Shore and the North Shore Health Region. I have not been able to attend the Inter-agency Network recently, but that is another good way of raising awareness. Part of the problem is that the community has not yet been educated about the realities that fathers are facing.

Tomorrow, March 11th, the Parents Coalition of B.C., a skeletal 'umbrella organization' of disenfranchised parents groups, is holding a candlelight vigil for Darren White, a young father who committed suicide in Prince George four years ago now because of the callous and impossible family court order against him. Mr. White's pre-teen daughter has published a letter on the web detailing her grief and anger at what has been done to her loving father. We will bring Ashley White's letter to the meeting so you will understand what the children see from all of this.

Tragically, young father Mark Edward Dixel has now also committed suicide, on January 23, 2003, in Kamloops, to where his baby son had been absconded. Despite the fact that we did everything we could to help him in the summer of 2002, it wasn't enough to overcome parental gender prejudice. You must recognize how we feel when we see public money spent to create or support this lethal inequity.

I hope you understand that fathers are rightfully angry about the injustice of the situations they face, and the irrational contempt with which they are treated. That is the reason that we groups and individuals are perceived to have a confrontational and radical image by the community. They are responding reasonably and predictably to unjust laws and discriminatory policies created by radical feminist propaganda. There is nothing beneficial for children or families in false gender politics.

For example, take a look at the Ontario Women's Justice Network web page. [www.owjn.org](http://www.owjn.org) One article puts "father's rights" in quotation marks, as if they should have no rights. We have read feminist literature that is simply and unequivocally spreading hate against fathers. This site is propaganda central for the gender feminists, whose skewed version of reality is merely self-serving.

A site you may find enlightening of our perspective is [www.ilanamerger.com](http://www.ilanamerger.com). Ms. Mercer highlights many issues surrounding police training, education, families and more. She once wrote for our own fine newspaper North Shore News and she has since become syndicated. Her articles are published all over North America. Another site is

[www.fathersforlife.com](http://www.fathersforlife.com) which is created and run by 'legally' abused fathers. Another informative resource is the book "Moral Panic, Bio-politics Rising" by John Fekete. The problem identified here is that the courts have been politicized and do not represent justice.

Please understand that what we see is a gross inequity of funding based on gender. Because we do not have funding for an office, our directors are limited to what meager resources we each may have at our home offices. I volunteered for 2 years as a front line advocate for one very disturbing case - we had very strong evidence that children had been severely coerced against their father at a transition house (another town) but it was completely ignored by the judge. While most of our members live on the North Shore, we get calls from Sechelt, Surrey, Richmond, Burnaby, East Vancouver and New Westminster. That tells us that there is a huge need.

Just for your clarification around our history in this community: Two years ago we sent information to the TAV Network. We did not get into the purple newsletter publication. I called various people and heard 4 different answers as to why. They did not want lobby groups, we put the committee in an awkward situation because they did not agree with our stance on domestic violence, that they had to eliminate another group because they too closely associated violence with poverty and the last reason was that we simply missed the deadline. Ms. Heal is doing an excellent job in her community. We just feel walls are being placed in front of us, simply because people are not yet educated about the issue. We need to educate our members about committees and what important roles they play in affecting change. However, it is difficult to get volunteer involvement from fathers, when they are intellectually, emotionally and financially exhausted by the pain of having their children stolen from them and there is no funding for help.

Because we are a recently formed society, it is challenging to find volunteer time to educate the public in a systematic and orderly fashion. This is what I am trying to do. We have only just recently formed committees headed by each director to address specific issues and there are so many of them! Much of the costs are coming out of our own pockets even though we get donations at our meetings. It barely covers the rent for our meeting place. I suppose this is how many societies get started, but what a lot of work! I can play a strategic role here because I am familiar with the non-profit sector, having served on the CSAC for 4 years from about 1995-1999. Back then, I was beginning to advocate for a study on services for non-custodial fathers, but nobody was interested, nor did anyone ever follow up with that initiative after I left the committee. Our most recent challenge is that we cannot get a commitment from the GREEN BOOK as to whether we will qualify, even though we meet twice a month at a North Shore address, 176 East 2nd.

My position is that it would also help women if men had help. I am the mother of a son and feel he is growing up in a male unfriendly society. We also want services for those fathers who choose not to be involved, nor take initiatives with their children (only 4% of all fathers, which is about the same for mothers). We need these services for fathers and children to be re-united and to overcome 'Family' Court-induced Parental Alienation Syndrome. This is where our presentations to service providers will come in. It is necessary, and would only benefit our community. Statistics show that more youth who commit crime are from fatherless families and that means COST to the taxpayer.

Anyway, thank you so much again Larry. I look forward to meeting with the committee in April.  
Sincerely,

Elise Roberts

**Fwd:** Manfred Weber: Director  
David Millar: President  
Robyn Newton  
Mayor in Council: CNV / DNV