

Subject: Fw: PLEASE POST ON FONCVA
Date: Sun, 09 Mar 2003 13:51:32 -0700
From: Elise Roberts <eliseroberts@shaw.ca>
To: kost@triumf.ca

Good Day Corrie Kost,
Could you please post this on FONVCA and delete the articles to PAT HEAL. (I have revised that letter as well)Equal Parenting Group will keep you posted on these important social issues.

THANKS

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

From: [Elise Roberts](mailto:eliseroberts@shaw.ca)
To: kost@triumf.ca
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2003 11:17 AM
Subject: PLEASE POST ON FONCVA

Elise Roberts

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March 10, 2003

Larry Orr

City Planner: CNV

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. This Tuesday, March 11th, for example, the Parents Coalition of B.C. is holding a candlelight vigil for Darren White, a father who committed suicide in Prince George because of the injustice towards him. Mr. White's daughter has circulated a letter on the web, which we will bring to the meeting. Sadly, there was another suicide recently in Kamloops.

I hope you understand that fathers are rightfully angry about the situations they face, which is the reason that these groups and individuals are perceived to have a confrontational and radical image by the community. They are responding to radical laws and policies, created by radical feminists and radical anything is not beneficial for children or families.

For example, take a look at the *Ontario Women's Justice Network* web page. One article puts "father's rights" in quotation marks, as if they should have no rights. We have read feminist literature that is dangerously close to spreading hate against fathers. Another excellent web site for your education is www.ilanamercer.com. Ms. Mercer highlights many issues surrounding police training, education, families and more. She once wrote for the North Shore News and has since become syndicated! Her articles are published all over North America. Another site is www.fathersforlife.com. An excellent book to read is "*Moral Panic, Bio-politics Rising*" by John Fekete. The problem is the courts have been politicized and that cannot represent real human justice.

While we do not have funding for an office, our directors have various resources at each of 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 Westminister. 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 a difficult 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 emotionally and financially suffering and there is no funding for help

Because we are a newly 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. Way back then, I was beginning to advocate for a study on services for non-custodial fathers. Our most recent challenge is that we cannot get a commitment from the GREEN BOOK as to whether we will qualify, even though we are now meeting at a North Shore address, 176 East 2nd, the Alano Club.

My position is that it would only help women if men had help. I am the mother of a son and feel he is growing up in a male unfriendly society. For example, we sure could use services for those fathers who choose not to be involved, nor take initiatives with their children (only 4% of all fathers) which is my case. We could use services for fathers and children to be re-united after lengthy alienation caused by Family Court. This is where our presentations to service providers will come in. It 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