

Subject: RE:**Date:** Wed, 5 Mar 2003 11:34:18 -0800**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** "Elise Roberts" <eliseroberts@shaw.ca>**CC:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Directors Team" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <cagebc@yahoo.com>

Dear Ms Roberts;

The information you sent was extremely interesting if not altogether surprising. We are not only living in a biased but also in a socially backwards society. Suffice it that we are the only country in the developed world where to this very day we do not as yet have universal childcare. The rest of the developed world has had this since 1919 while in some developed countries it was in place even before.

It also occurred to me that at a time when we try to get the Olympics we still do not have any effective sewage treatment. We are only beginning to tackle primary treatment which is really no meaningful treatment at all. I wonder what the members of the Olympic Selection Committee would think if it were pointed out to them that we are still pouring raw sewage into the ocean. This of course has nothing to do with either the Olympics per se nor indeed with your concern but it does show the level of understanding of the people who are running this country and the challenges we face in attempting to bring about reforms.

As to your particular concern, I hope that you will continue the struggle. I am impressed by the level of your social awareness. As I have also pointed to you in the past, the only way for changes to take place is through mass struggle. In light of the fact that as you have stated hundreds of parents are affected on the North Shore it should be possible to mobilize and make them part of a political force demanding changes.

I can assure you that there is no other way. In the end it is not only males of course who are being discriminated against but everybody. Unity of all affected persons is the key to make changes. Relying on the good will or common sense of our political leaders at any level, including those in the District of North Vancouver would be a total waste of time. They themselves do not understand and to the extent that they do understand they dare not raise their heads. Counting on them would be like waiting for a savior from outer space. Many people may be praying for this to happen but in the end we will have to solve our own problems I am sure. The only force that makes politicians move from their particular level of repose and ignorance into action is numbers. Make sure you get those numbers and get them involved - organize - demonstrate - fight back.

The best of luck.

Yours truly

Ernie Crist

Original Message-----

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

Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2003 10:08 AM

To: Ernie Crist

Subject: Fw:

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

From: Elise <<mailto:eliseroberts@shaw.ca>> Roberts

To: premier@gov.bc.ca

Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2003 11:06 AM

Subject: Fw:

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

From: Elise <<mailto:eliseroberts@shaw.ca>> Roberts
To: Manfred Weber <<mailto:mweber@telus.net>>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2003 10:51 AM

Elise Roberts

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Email: eliseroberts@shaw.ca

March 6, 2003

Attn: Pat Heal

Chair: Family Law and Youth Justice Committee

Fax:

Email:

Dear Ms. Heal,

I have just learned of the Family Law 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. I also ask for a very clear explanation as to what spousal abuse has to do with Youth Justice? 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 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. 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.

The following statements, I believe in my heart to be true.

Regarding men being victims of spousal abuse, our members collectively have indicated very strong evidence to the following:

- * 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 the 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 lawyers encourage women to stage incidences that would provoke anger in a man.
- * That women have made fraudulent calls to the RCMP when fathers come to pick up children for their regular access visits.

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 violent and abusive woman called a service provider to seek help for her problem, she was told to pretend that she was in fact the victim and to take her children and leave the house (we have this on tape).
- * 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.

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.
- * That there is a huge lack of awareness and, in fact an orchestrated denial, amongst local established service providers about false allegations against fathers.

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

Given that this Family Court and Youth Justice committees are provincially mandated and therefore in every municipality, EPG 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

C.C.

Attorney General's Office

Premiers Office

Mayor and Council (CNV, DNV, DWV)

Robyn Newton

Alan Nixon

Richard Walton

Provincial Court of B.C.

Family Justice Centre

North Shore Health

Family Services of the North Shore

RCMP

TAV Committee

Inter-Agency Network

North Shore News

Vancouver Sun

The Province

Ted White

Katherine Whittred

Daniel Jarvis

Ralph Sultan


Parents Coalition of B.C.

Nanaimo Men's Group

Victoria Men's Group

Kamloops Mens Group

B.C. Men's Resource Centre

 winmail.dat	<p>Name: winmail.dat Type: application/ms-tnef Encoding: base64 Download Status: Not downloaded with message</p>
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