

March 31, 2004



Ms. Mary Gusella
Chief Commissioner
Canadian Human Rights Commission
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Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Ms. Gusella:

Re: Status of Recommendations with Respect to the Canadian Human Rights Commission
Report - *Protecting Their Rights: A Systemic Review of Human Rights in Correctional
Services for Federally Sentenced Women*

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for all of the energy and effort that was devoted to identifying, analyzing, and making recommendations with respect to the discriminatory treatment of federally sentenced women in Canada. We very much appreciated the opportunity to work with you and your staff and welcome any and all opportunities to do so again.

I am sure you are as concerned as are we that the government has not yet provided any response to the very important recommendations that the Canadian Human Rights Commission has made with respect to addressing and remedying the current state of discriminatory treatment of federally sentenced women in Canada. In the interest of ensuring that the recommendations are implemented, we are currently seeking your support in order to ensure that the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, the Honourable Anne McLellan, as well as the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, are reminded of their respective roles in reviewing the response of the Correctional Service of Canada to the recommendations of the Commission.

We would appreciate hearing from you regarding what steps may have already been taken by the Commission, the Minister, the Cabinet and the respective party critics, as well as any Parliamentary Committees. In addition, we would welcome any suggestions that you might have with respect to the manner in which we might best facilitate the process of encouraging bureaucratic and political response to your report. Finally, we look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss these and other related matters.

Please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Kim Pate, in order to arrange such a meeting. We look forward to hearing from you and to collaborating with you to ensure that your recommendations provide meaningful alleviation of the discriminatory treatment experienced by federally sentenced women in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ailsa M. Watkinson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Ailsa M. Watkinson
President
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

