



Canadian Federation of University Women
Fédération Canadienne des Femmes Diplômées des Universités

600 - 251 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario, k2P 1X3
Telephone: (613) 234-8252 Fax: (613) 234-8221
www.cfuw.org; E-mail: cfuwgen@rogers.com

Dr. Ailsa Watkinson, President
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies
#701-151 Slater St.,
Ottawa ON, K1P5H3

May 8, 2003

Dear Dr. Watkinson

On behalf of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) I would like to offer our support and encouragement for your efforts on behalf of federally sentenced women on their journey to successful rehabilitation.

As long ago as 1978 CFUW established policy recommending that a permanent national advisory body be established to ensure the best interests of female offenders. The clause here that should be underlined is "ensure the best interests of female offenders". Sadly today our recommendation for an advisory body and the principle engendered in this phrase are still on the agenda along with other much needed improvements in other areas.

I would urge you to continue your efforts to accomplish once and for all the recommendations of the numerous commissions, committees and task forces etc. directed to the best interests of the female offender to ensure they are implemented in practice and in spirit. For over a decade there has been a need for fundamental change. Making these changes is no longer an option. I submit to you that failure to remedy is in itself discriminatory and must be addressed without delay.

Since its founding in 1919 CFUW has been dedicated to equality for women and the elimination of discrimination against women in all areas of society – access to education and employment; the socio-economic sphere; culture and race and the support of human rights, peace, the environment and justice. The efforts of our 10,000 women graduate members across Canada continues. Let me again assure you that you have our support.

Sincerely

COPY

Jacqueline Jacques, President

Cc Kim Pate, Executive Director, CAEFS
Monica Cullum, Director International Relations, CFUW
Margaret McGovern, Director Status of Women, CFUW