



August 5, 2010

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Dear Sirs:

**Re: Public inquiry into the murdered and missing women of  
Vancouver and the Highway 16 area**

In February of 2009 we wrote to you to request a public inquiry into the matter of the missing and murdered women of Vancouver and the Highway 16 area of northern B.C. At the time, media reports indicated that the primary objection to an public inquiry into those matters at the time was that the criminal matters involving Robert Pickton had not yet concluded.

As you are surely aware, the remaining charges against Robert Pickton have been stayed and the charges that had been appealed are now finalized as convictions following the Supreme Court of Canada's dismissal of the Appellant's case.

The matter of the treatment of vulnerable women by police forces in B.C. is still a live one, with retired police officer Dave Dickson, who specialized in working with sex workers with the Vancouver Police Department, writing in to the Vancouver Province newspaper as follows just this week:

*I am relieved Robert Pickton's appeal has been denied and it is finally over for some people.*

*But for many women who still live with the danger of other Picktons, it means little.*

*Having put in the initial report that started the investigation in 1996, I witnessed events that led to problems with the investigation from the start. Attitudes existed that got in the way and here we are, 14 years later, and those attitudes still exist. So, for no other reason than the fact the Vancouver police appear to have learned nothing, there has to be an inquiry.*

*There are many incredible officers working the streets of the Downtown Eastside. But, unfortunately, they are led by officers who make decisions based on what's good for the department and themselves and not what's good for the people they police.*

*The women on the streets say it's worse than ever so, for their sake, it should be looked at.*

Few people would be in as reliable a position to know, both from a policing and sex worker perspective, whether or not women are receiving the policing services they deserve in Vancouver, and whether or not the police have learned lessons from the murders that have taken place here as Mr. Dickson, and we echo his calls for an inquiry into this matter, as well as the ongoing and related issue of the policing for vulnerable women in the north along Highway 16.

We urge you to act on this matter immediately so that we may learn lessons and adjust policy to save the lives of these extremely vulnerable women now, and into the future.

Yours truly,



David Eby  
Executive Director

cc. Mr. Stan Lowe, OPCC - (604) 660-1223