

August 20, 2014

The Honourable Peter Gordon MacKay, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0A6

Dear Minister MacKay:

CFUW fully endorses the call by the Canadian Human Rights Commission for a full public inquiry into the root causes of so many deaths and disappearances of Aboriginal women and girls.

Canada is a country that believes in justice for all. We need a national action plan to confront this gender based, racial violence. On May 8 we wrote to you and the Honourable Steven Blaney urging action on this issue but Tina Fontaine's recent horrible death again focuses the need for urgent action. Her death was not a singular event – even this single event would be unacceptable - but it is part of a pattern of 1,200 missing and murdered aboriginal women over the past three decades.

These are not disposable women – they are women who should never have died and need to be remembered. Let us use this latest death as the focus for a declaration of commitment to ending this violence.

We are calling on you to take the lead to create an action plan that has extensive input from the aboriginal communities of Canada while allowing all Canadians who are shocked and grieved by this ongoing terrorization of aboriginal women to show our support and our willingness to contribute to the decisive changes that must occur.

We will help. We will lend our minds and voices to find and implement solutions but this requires your leadership and the leadership of your colleagues across the country.

Please be the champion who steps forward to make the difference that we need in Canada to make it a safe country for all girls and women.

Remembering our fallen sisters,



Doris Mae Oulton  
CFUW, President

Cc:

David Langtry, Acting Chief Commissioner, Canadian Human Rights Commission  
Michèle Audette, President, Native Women's Association of Canada