



**OFFICE OF THE INTEGRITY
COMMISSIONER**

REPORT

of

**THE HONOURABLE GREGORY T. EVANS
COMMISSIONER**

**RE: MS. DIANNE CUNNINGHAM, M.P.P.,
LONDON NORTH**

**TORONTO, ONTARIO
DECEMBER 13, 1995**

REPORT
of
THE HONOURABLE GREGORY T. EVANS
INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

RE: MS. DIANNE CUNNINGHAM, M.P.P., LONDON NORTH

BACKGROUND

On November 21st, the Member from Riverdale filed a request for my opinion on a matter alleging that the Member for London North, in her role as Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, has contravened the *Members' Integrity Act, 1994*, (the "Act") more specifically Ontario parliamentary convention. A copy of the request and enclosed documentation is attached as Appendix "A".

Section 30(1), (2) and (3) of the Act states:

- (1) A member of the Assembly who has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that another member has contravened this Act or Ontario parliamentary convention may request that the Commissioner given an opinion as to the matter.*
- (2) The request shall be in writing and shall set out the grounds for the belief and the contravention alleged.*
- (3) The member making the request shall promptly give a copy of it to the Speaker, who shall cause the request to be laid before the Assembly if it is in session or, if not, within 10 days after the beginning of the next session.*

The concept of parliamentary convention is not new although it has now received statutory recognition by being included among the provisions of the *Members' Integrity Act, 1994*. Parliamentary conventions are, in general, practical guidelines or directives concerned with the manner in which members discharge their legislative functions and have been accepted and approved by the Legislature as being procedures which maintain public trust and confidence in the institution of Parliament. They recognize and support the accepted principles of fairness, impartiality, justice and due process upon which our democratic system is based. Probably the most fundamental convention arises when an accusation of impropriety is made by a member against another member in the Legislature and the member against whom the accusation is levied categorically denies the accusation. In such an event, the word of the member must be accepted and the accusation rejected. The issue is dead unless some parliamentary process is invoked to revive it.

If the accusation is raised in a forum outside the Assembly, where the question of parliamentary immunity is not involved, the matter is subject to the provisions of civil law.

It is stated by many political scientists that the Judiciary along with the Executive and the Administration are separate branches of government. Whether that statement is constitutionally correct in the present context is immaterial, since by long recognized convention, members do not contact the Judiciary to influence the manner in which they should discharge their official duties. The independence of the Judiciary has always been respected.

This issue received considerable attention in a previous administration when the Solicitor-General of the day was accused of consulting with the police over a constituent's possible criminal

prosecution. After considerable debate in the Legislative Assembly, the Minister resigned her Ministerial office. I do not consider it necessary to explore that situation in further detail except to state that in my opinion the Legislature, in accepting the decision, extended the concept of the Judicial convention to include police investigations. It also gave support to the heretofore rather unevenly recognized convention that certain restrictions applied to members of the Executive in becoming involved with agencies, boards and commissions under their particular jurisdiction on behalf of constituents. This issue was first addressed by this Commissioner in 1991 and was reported in the Commission's Annual Report, 1991-92, Inquiry No. 6. It was also addressed in the Annual Report 1993-94, under the title, Take Time to Reflect, and has continued to be addressed in numerous opinions requested by members. The practice has, in my opinion, become a parliamentary convention.

In the succeeding parliament, recognition and acceptance was given to both of the above conventions. The Solicitor General, at that time, became involved with the police over a constituent's traffic violation and was forced to resign. As well, the Minister of Labour, who prior to his appointment as Minister was actively involved personally and through his constituency office with a host of claims on behalf of employees before the Workers' Compensation Board. The Minister recognized that his advocacy and that of his staff before the Board was incompatible with his position as the Minister responsible for the Board and transferred the files to a colleague.

Parliamentary conventions usually evolve over a period of time. When certain situations continue to arise and the legislators reach a consensus as to their disposition, they are then classified as conventions and serve as precedents which may be adopted to determine future cases of a similar nature.

FINDING OF FACT

I am not aware of any precedent approved by the Legislature which is applicable to the circumstances related in the material provided by the Member from Riverdale.

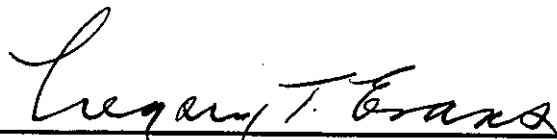
OPINION

Section 30(5) of the Act states:

If the Commissioner is of the opinion that the referral of a matter to him or her is frivolous, vexatious or not made in good faith, or that there are no grounds or insufficient grounds for an inquiry, the Commissioner shall not conduct an inquiry and shall state the reasons for not doing so in the report."

It is my opinion that s.30(5) applies and that there are no grounds requiring me to hold an inquiry.

DATED at Toronto this 13th day of December, 1995.



The Honourable Gregory T. Evans
Integrity Commissioner

NOV 21 1995



Marilyn
Churley



MPP Riverdale

November 21, 1995

The Honourable G.T. Evans
Integrity Commissioner
101 Bloor Street West, 4th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 2Z7

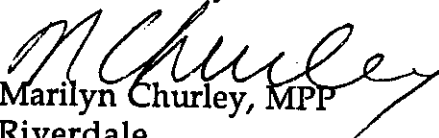
Dear Mr. Evans:

I am writing to request that you give an opinion on whether the Member for London North, in her role as Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, has contravened the Member's Integrity Act and, more specifically, Ontario parliamentary convention.

I have reasonable and probable grounds to believe that Ms. Cunningham has done so. Enclosed with this letter is an affidavit sworn on November 16, 1995 by Ms. Julie Lee of London, Ontario. Ms. Lee states: "Ms. Cunningham's second to last comment in this meeting consisted of a clear threat to our organizations." It is my strong belief that any threat from a Member of Executive Council to a member of the public is an abuse of that Member's position and authority.

In your 1994-95 Annual Report, you stated: "There are instances of impropriety by members that do not involve issues in which there is a conflict between personal and public interests, however they do affect public trust and confidence. Some of these situations we have characterized as Ontario parliamentary conventions, because they recognize and support those accepted democratic principles of fairness, impartiality, justice and due process, of which the Legislature has signified its approval." It is in that spirit that I request your opinion in this matter.

Yours sincerely,


Marilyn Churley, MPP
Riverdale

cc: The Honourable Allan McLean
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

I, JULIE LEE, of the City of London, in the County of Middlesex, MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:

On Friday, October 20th, 1995, (between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon), I attended a meeting at the constituency office of Dianne Cunningham, our M.P.P. for London North, along with representatives of the three London agencies serving battered women. We had been invited to this meeting by Dianne Cunningham's staff in order to discuss the impact of the provincial funding cuts to violence against women services in our community. A reporter from the London Free Press was notified about this meeting by a representative of the London Second Stage Housing. Although all three battered women's agencies agreed to including the reporter in our meeting in the interests of openly sharing information with our community, Ms. Cunningham refused to agree to having the reporter remain in the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, the women's agencies put forward two questions/requests to Ms. Cunningham. We asked:

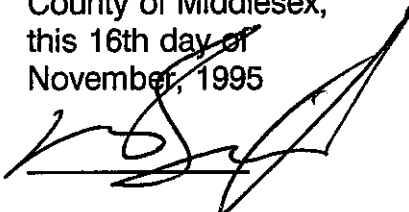
- * since this government clearly intends to impose additional cuts to battered women's services in the near future, and our organizations need to create a proactive and efficient plan to respond, we need to know what the government plans to do next
- * for an additional six months funding for London Second Stage Housing, in order that this agency be enabled to maintain safe and secure housing for their residents, while negotiating a new, more financially efficient model in conjunction with the other community social service agencies for preserving service to battered women

The bulk of this meeting was devoted to Ms. Cunningham's assertions that there would be no additional funding, and, although she couldn't tell us any details, that there were more serious cuts to expect in the near future. She also indicated that her government was considering an alternative model for responding to woman abuse.

Ms. Cunningham's second to last comment in this meeting consisted of a clear threat to our organizations. Very quickly after this meeting I took note of what I remembered Ms. Cunningham saying to us. My notes indicate that Ms. Cunningham said the following:

"Within the context of this government, you need to understand that groups or agencies that are seen not to be working with this government, providing an oppositional voice, [at this point she made reference to Harmony House, an Ottawa second stage housing project which has been strongly voicing opposition to the cuts], will be audited and their funding eliminated."

SWORN before me at the
City of London, in the
County of Middlesex,
this 16th day of
November, 1995



a Commissioner, etc.

MARGARET L. M. BUIST

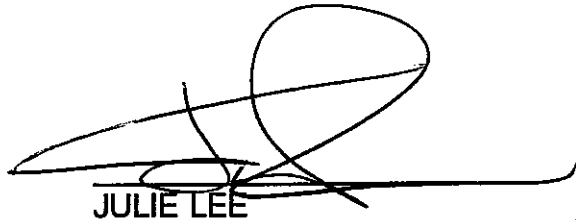
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

73 KING ST.

LONDON, ONTARIO N6A 1C1

(519) 642-7135

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JULIE LEE



October 25, 1995

Marilyn Churley, M.P.P.,
Critic for Women's Issues,
Room #215,
North Wing,
Queen's Park,
TORONTO, Ontario

FAXED CORRESPONDENCE: (416) 325-7111

Dear Ms. Churley:

I am writing in order to confirm a discussion which we had on the telephone this morning. As I noted to you, I am bringing this situation to your attention since I believe that it is of the utmost seriousness.

As a follow-up to the provincial funding cuts to Second Stage Housing, Dianne Cunningham, our M.P.P. for London North, invited the representatives of the three London agencies serving battered women to her office at 11:00 a.m. on October 20th, 1995. A reporter from the London Free Press was notified about this meeting by a representative of the London Second Stage Housing. Although all three battered women's agencies agreed to including the reporter in our meeting in the interests of openly sharing information with our community, Ms. Cunningham refused to agree to having the reporter remain in the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, the women's agencies put forward two questions/requests to Ms. Cunningham. We asked:

- * since this government clearly intends to impose additional cuts to battered women's services in the near future, and our organizations need to create a proactive and efficient plan to respond, we need to know what the government plans to do next
- * for an additional six months funding for London Second Stage Housing, in order that this agency be enabled to maintain safe and secure housing for their residents, while negotiating a new, more financially efficient model in conjunction with the other community social service agencies for preserving service to battered women

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seek support to end the violence in their lives.

During the course of the meeting, we reminded Ms. Cunningham that our organizations, as members of the London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse, had been proactively meeting, **long before the announced cuts, with a view to restructuring the administrative and programmatic structures in light of the funding crisis.**

The bulk of this meeting, however, was devoted to Ms. Cunningham's assertions that there would be no additional funding, and, although she couldn't tell us any details, that there were more serious cuts to expect in the near future. She also indicated that her government was considering an alternative model for responding to woman abuse.

Most importantly, however, and the reason that I am writing to you today, Ms. Cunningham's second to last comment to this meeting consisted of a clear threat to our organizations. Very quickly after this meeting I took note of what she said to us. Ms. Cunningham said:

"Within the context of this government, you need to understand that groups or agencies that are seen not to be working with this government, providing an oppositional voice, [at this point she made reference to Harmony House, an Ottawa second stage housing project which has been strongly voicing opposition to the cuts], will be audited and their funding eliminated."

Ms. Churley, I hope you understand the impact of this comment to our organizations. I must say that the decision to come forward and make this public may have serious consequences for my organization. Certainly, the London Battered Women's Advocacy Centre has a mandate for confronting abuse of power in all of its forms, however, we are not naive about the possibility that confronting this governmentally based abuse of power carries with it a serious threat of having our funding eliminated. We have, however, decided that, ultimately and despite the risk, that we had a commitment to informing the Ontario public of this extremely undemocratic message to our community service providers.

In addition, I think it is very important that you understand the very vulnerable position of London Second Stage Housing. You must remember that they met with Ms. Cunningham with a plea to having her assist them in surviving and preserving safe and secure services to their clients. They decided to come forward only after an extraordinarily difficult period of deliberation about principles, commitments to battered women, and justice. As a consequence, Mary Ellen Mellanson, the Executive Director of London Second Stage Housing, has been supported by her board of directors, (who were in attendance at this meeting), to come forward and confirm Dianne Cunningham's statement as noted above.

Our hopes, in bringing this to your attention, are the following:

- * that this government be given notice that further threats against community groups and agencies desist
- * that this government be reminded that they have a responsibility to assuring open and frank exchange of ideas and perspectives in a democratic and safe environment
- * that this government commit itself to undertaking its financial strategies only after a full and comprehensive consultation with communities

Finally, I think it is very important that you understand that we are extremely disappointed by Ms. Cunningham's behaviour. Our organization has been consistently in contact, in writing and on the telephone, with Ms. Cunningham and her assistants since her election. We have openly shared information with her and let her know that it was our intention to work with her and her government. It is, therefore, shocking and very hurtful to come to understand that it appears that Ms. Cunningham and her government does not wish to work with us in an open and collaborative manner, but chooses instead to impose fear and silence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Julie Lee', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract.

Julie Lee,
Executive Director

cc: President, Board of Directors, L.B.W.A.C.
Mary Ellen Mellanson, Executive Director, L.S.S.H.
Chair, London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse
Marion Boyd, M.P.P., London Centre

Note: M. E. Mellanson, can be contacted at 519-686-8333



October 26, 1995

Marilyn Churley, M.P.P.,
NDP Critic for Women's Issues,
Room #215, North Wing,
Queen's Park,
TORONTO, Ontario

FAXED CORRESPONDENCE: (416) 325-7111

Dear Ms. Churley:

First of all, warm thanks to you and Mr. Rae on behalf of all of the staff and board of the London Battered Women's Advocacy Centre for your advocacy on our behalf in the legislature in yesterday's question period. Mr. Rae's questions were clear, courageous, and reflected our concerns with integrity.

I am attaching an article about this situation which was published in today's **London Free Press**. It is critical to note that the **London Free Press** was unable to print this story until the board of directors of London Second Stage Housing had met and agreed to come forward to tell their story in public. When these board members were originally contacted by the reporter, (after my disclosure late Friday afternoon), they were quite frightened and were very hesitant to go forward. As you recall, they had been hopeful that the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues might be able to secure some shut-down funding for their organization, and they were worried that such a disclosure might well put this request at risk. In the final analysis, this group of women decided that, despite the obvious risk, they did have a responsibility to tell the truth.

It is, therefore, absolutely shameful that Ms. Cunningham defended her denial of on the absence of **London Free Press** coverage over the weekend. Ironically, the **London Free Press's** silence on the matter up until this morning only reveals the extraordinary fear faced by community social service providers. Tragically, Mr. Rae was very accurate in noting that "intimidation was the order of the day".

I must also note that it appears that Ms. Cunningham's statement in the legislature that she had spoken to five women from that meeting, after the meeting, who would deny her threatening statement, is also untrue. Mary Ellen Mellanson polled members of her board after hearing of Ms. Cunningham's statement, and found that no members that she spoke to had had a follow-up conversation with Ms. Cunningham after the meeting. This, of course, is something that you should confirm directly with Ms. Mellanson.

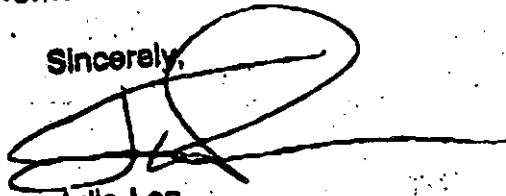
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Page 2

Finally, I am writing in order to implore you to persist in this matter. I understand, quite solidly, that you have many competing and important issues at hand in the legislature, (labour, referendum, etc.), however, if this matter is dropped after Ms. Cunningham's denial, our organizations become more vulnerable for additional targeting and punishment.

Please let me know what we can expect as a follow-up. Again, our sincere gratitude for your work on behalf of women in the province.

Sincerely,



Julie Lee,
Executive Director

cc: M. E. Mellanson, Executive Director,
London Second Stage Housing



October 26, 1995

Marilyn Churley, M.P.P.,
NDP Critic for Women's Issues,
Room #215, North Wing,
Queen's Park,
TORONTO, Ontario

FAXED CORRESPONDENCE: (416) 325-7111

Dear Marilyn:

As per your request, I am writing in order to provide you with a summary of those in attendance at the October 20th meeting with Dianne Cunningham in her constituency office. In attendance were:

Program Coordinator	Women's Community House
Julie Lee, Executive Director	London Battered Women's Advocacy Centre
Mary Ellen Melanson Executive Director	London Second Stage Housing

Seven members of the Board of Directors of London Second Stage Housing

In terms of which women are willing to confirm the statement made by Dianne Cunningham:

Women's Community House	Not making a comment - declining publicity
Julie Lee, L.B.W.A.C.	Confirming
Mary Ellen Melanson	Confirming

Board of Second Stage Housing -- confirmed with a motion, October 24th
-- four of these women confirmed that they heard the words, two women indicated that they didn't hear for proximity reasons and are not indicating they deny that this happened, one woman is out of the province and unavailable for comment.

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69 WELLINGTON STREET, LONDON, ONTARIO, N6B 2K4 • (519) 432-2204 (TDD) • FAX: (519) 679-3918



November 10, 1995

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NOV 14 1995

Honourable Mike Harris
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
TORONTO, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Mr. Harris;

I am writing on behalf of Armagh, in order to request that a public inquiry be initiated in order to openly and accountably review the statements made by your Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, Diane Cunningham, at a meeting with London service providers in her constituency office on Friday, October 20, 1995. Our colleagues, who were in attendance at that meeting, disclosed that Ms. Cunningham mad a statement which was understood as very intimidating and punitive. Moreover, we understand that the message that was delivered was that your government would silence any oppositional voices with the threat of removing funding and instituting audits against community organizations who put forward the needs of their clients.

This is an extraordinarily troubling situation, since we are also in the position, given our mandate, of having to voice the concerns of our constituents and clients. Will we be listened to if we have to present challenging perspectives? Will we be audited if we must put forward information which might make the government uncomfortable? Are we at risk of losing our funding if we oppose some of your government policies? We ask these questions in all seriousness. And, in order that these questions be attended to we must insist that you immediately initiate some form of public inquiry to deal with the Cunnningham threat. We deserve to be assured that Ms. Cunningham's threat does not represent a systematic approach being taken by your government.

Page 2

In addition, Connie Boles, a member of the London Second Stage Housing board is prepared to be publicly named in confirming the statement by Dianne Cunningham. She can be reached at 519-885-8300, extension 5649 (Child and Adolescent Centre, Victoria Hospital). At this point, the other members of the board, who confirmed the statement, feel that it is too risky to be named, other than as a whole board of directors in solidarity.

Again, (and I know that you know this), I must make a hearty plea for this issue to stay in front of the legislature. You must understand that we are an even more vulnerable position today, than we were yesterday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Julie Lee', written over a horizontal line.

Julie Lee,
Executive Director

cc: M. E. Mellanson, Executive Director,
London Second Stage Housing

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Part

FEED FAX THIS END

FAX	
To:	Bob Kae
Dept.:	header / MSF
Fax No.:	416-325-8222
No. of Pages:	2
From:	J. L. Lee
Date:	Nov. 6/95
Company:	L.B.W.A.C.
Fax No.:	519-679-3918
Comments:	re: copied copy
Postnet tax paid 7900E	

November 6, 1995

Honourable Mike Harris,
Premier of Ontario,
Room 281, Legislative Building,
Queen's Park,
TORONTO, Ontario
M7A 1A1

RECEIVED

NOV 07 1995

Dear Mr. Harris:

I am writing, on behalf of the London Battered Women's Advocacy Centre, in order to request that a public inquiry be initiated in order to openly and accountably review the statements made by your Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, Dianne Cunningham, at a meeting with London service providers in her constituency office on Friday, October 20th, 1995. This was a meeting called by Ms. Cunningham focused on reviewing the impact of the funding cutbacks to violence against women services in the London area. I attended on behalf of the London Battered Women's Advocacy Centre, along with the Executive Director and seven members of the board of directors of London Second Stage Housing, and a representative of a London shelter for battered women.

As you know, given that this matter has been raised on three different occasions during question period in the Legislative Assembly, Ms. Cunningham made a statement at this meeting which was understood as very intimidating and representative of an extremely undemocratic approach to working with community organizations. From notes that I made directly following the end of this meeting, Ms. Cunningham told us that:

Within the context of this government, you need to understand that groups or agencies that are seen not to be working with this government, providing an oppositional voice, [at this point she made reference to Harmony House, an Ottawa second stage housing project which has been strongly voicing opposition to the cuts], will be audited and their funding eliminated.

Mr. Harris, I am sure that you will understand that the need for an open and constructive dialogue between government and communities has never been so important. These difficult economic times require a commitment to openness and sharing of information by every partner in order to plan for and accommodate, on the basis of reasonability and shared expertise, the decreased availability of funding. This is why we are particularly shocked and troubled by Ms. Cunningham's apparent threat.

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seek support to end the violence in their lives.

You have asked us over and over again in recent months, as representatives of the community base of Ontario, to take on our measure of accountability and burden with respect to the difficult economic choices faced by this government. We are asking that you do your part to ensure that the government's work is undertaken within a framework that guarantees an open, frank and honest exchange with community organizations.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Curran, M.S.W.
Executive Director

- cc. Hon. Bob Rae, Leader of the Third Party
Hon. Lyn McLeod, Leader of the Opposition
Ms. Julie Lee, London Battered Women's Advocacy Centre



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF INTERVAL & TRANSITION HOUSES

2 Carlton Street Suite 1404 Toronto Ontario M5B 1J3 Tel: (416) 977-6619 Fax: (416) 977-1227

copy only.

OAITH FAX BULLETIN

To: The Honourable Mike Harris, Premier of Ontario
From: The Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses
Date: November 6, 1995

Number of pages, including this one: 4

Dear Mr. Harris:

On behalf of the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH) I am writing to support the call for an formal inquiry into allegations that Dianne Cunningham, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, has threatened to audit and eliminate services--specifically services in her own area of London--which take an oppositional view of current cuts to abused women's services in Ontario.

I had already faxed a letter to Ms. Cunningham on October 26 regarding this incident, but I have not received a reply at this time. That letter is attached here for your information.

OAITH is very concerned about these allegations. It is shocking that women's services for survivors of violence should come away from *any* meeting with the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues in Ontario feeling that they have been subjected to tactics of threat and intimidation, regardless of what actually may have taken place. Clearly, the message sent to the women in London, whatever the wording, was not one of support and respect for their work and commitment to abused women and their children.

As I noted in my fax to Ms. Cunningham, this is not the first time that I have been informed that services for abused women have been given a clear signal that opposition to current provincial funding cuts to abused women might be punished by further funding cuts. A number of services have told me that they have received that message either from civil servants handling their funding contracts, or from MPPs and employees of MPPs in your Government. It should not be necessary for anyone to point out to the Premier of Ontario that this is *absolutely inappropriate* in a democracy.

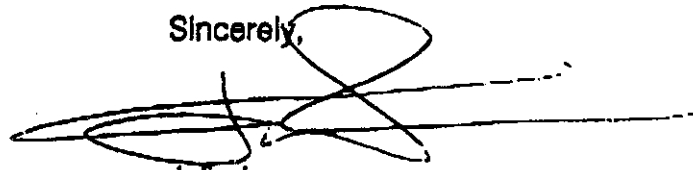
We believe that the only way to clear up the London incident, and any others that may come to light, is for you, as Premier, to order a full inquiry into this matter in order to address the concerns of legitimate services attempting to save lives and end violence in this province. In addition, it is imperative that this Government reassure all government funded services that they have the same rights as anyone else to voice concerns on behalf of women and children

It is important that you understand that our organization, along with the others represented in the meeting, have been consistently in contact, in writing and on the telephone, with Ms. Cunningham and her assistants since her election. We have openly shared information with her and let her know that it was our intention to work with her and her government. Certainly, there were occasions where, because of our responsibility to represent the stated needs of abused women, we had to present troubling and challenging information to Ms. Cunningham. However, we never expected that our attempts to work things through would be met with such a silencing message.

In addition, we are further distressed given that Ms. Cunningham has outright denied that she made this statement. Furthermore, she has stated that an open and public review of this serious matter would be a "waste of money". Mr. Harris, we have heard from many, many other community service organizations across the province who are similarly concerned about this matter. In particular, there is a concern that you and your government clearly indicate that Ms. Cunningham's statements are not representative of your government's approach to working with the community. Therefore, such efforts aimed at openly resolving this matter are not, in the least, a waste of money.

It is critical, given the hard work that we must all do at present, that you take on a leadership role in restoring trust in order to form the basis of an open, frank, honest and productive partnership with community agencies across the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Julie Lee', written over a horizontal dashed line. The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Julie Lee,
Executive Director

cc: Dianne Cunningham, M.P.P., London North
Bob Rae, Leader of the Third Party
Lyn McLeod, Leader of the Opposition
Marilyn Churley, M.P.P.
Marion Boyd, M.P.P., London Centre
Mary Ellen Melanson, Executive Director, L.S.S.H.
Board of Directors, L.B.W.A.C.



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2 Carlton Street Suite 1404 Toronto Ontario M5B 1J3 Tel: (416) 977-6619 Fax: (416) 977-1227

Copy only.

OAITH FAX BULLETIN

To: Dianne Cunningham, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues
From: Eileen Morrow, OAITH Lobby Coordinator
Date: October 26, 1995

Number of pages, including this one: 2

Dear Ms. Cunningham:

On behalf of the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH) I am writing to express our shock in hearing that you have warned women's services in London, Ontario about opposing Government policy, and further, that you have specifically mentioned Harmony House, a member of our Association, and one of the representatives who met with you last week in good faith, in that regard.

There is no reason whatsoever for women in London to put their services on the line by misrepresenting such an exchange, particularly in the climate of fear and anxiety within the anti-violence community which we outlined clearly for you in our meeting on October 19. It is extremely discouraging that women in Ontario could come away from any meeting with the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues with anything less than a feeling of total support. It is shocking, indeed, to hear that abused women's services feel intimidated and threatened by the Minister who is appointed to be the voice of women in Ontario.

(I must also tell you that this is not the first time I have been told that women's services have been warned not to lobby against the Government. I have personally heard from several services which have been "reminded" by MCSS program supervisors that their contracts with the Ministry of Community and Social Services does not support lobbying activities.)

In addition, we are also surprised to hear Minister David Tsubouchi deny that functions of MCSS are slated for shifting to other ministries and municipalities when we clearly heard from you at our meeting last week that work with abused women and their children may have to be done by "other jurisdictions" and "other systems, for example, hospitals" as you stated to us, even though we "might not like it."

We would like you to please clarify in the Legislature what your role is as Minister Responsible for Women's Issues in Ontario so that women in the province are clear about where you stand on issues of concern to abused women and their children. We also ask that you immediately promise, publicly and on the floor of the Legislature, that the Battered Women's Advocacy Centre, London Second Stage Housing and Harmony House in Ottawa,

experiencing violence, without fear of reprisals that will ultimately be paid by the women and children who need shelter and counselling in Ontario.

Until a full inquiry can be established, we also request that you immediately stand in the Legislature and publicly reassure all women's services and organizations in Ontario that voicing opposition to Progressive Conservative Government policy or program decisions *will not result in any retaliation* whatsoever, and that women's services for abused women and their children have the *right and responsibility* to speak out in support of women and children who are subjected to violence and abuse in Ontario.

Already too many services for women and children may have been irreparably damaged and silenced by funding cuts and insidious reminders of the consequences of opposition. An immediate inquiry into allegations of misuse of power by the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues is needed now to put this issue to rest and restore confidence. We, therefore, look forward to your speedy response to our concerns.

Sincerely,



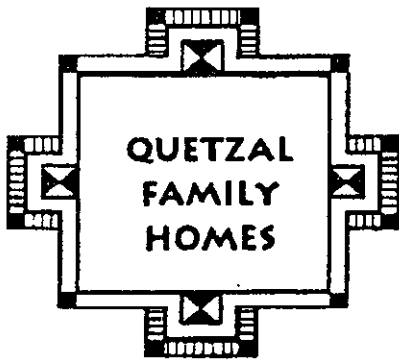
Eileen Morrow, Lobby Coordinator,
For the Lobby Committee of OAIH.

cc:

Lyn Macleod, Leader of the Opposition
Bob Rae, Leader of the NDP
Marilyn Churley, NDP
Elinor Caplan, Liberal Party
Battered Women's Advocacy Centre, London
Harmony House, Ottawa

(If you don't receive all of the pages, please call us at 416-977-6619)

Stop Violence Against Women Now



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NOV 07 1995

SECOND STAGE HOUSING

Premier Mike Harris,
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park,
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

November 6, 1995

Dear Premier Harris,

Quetzal Family Homes is a Second Stage Housing Program, located in the town of Simcoe, in the Region of Haldimand-Norfolk. We are writing to express our extreme concern with the tactics of intimidation currently being used by your government to silence opposition to cuts to community services. We are speaking about the comments made by Dianne Cunningham, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, at a meeting with London service providers in her constituency office on October 20, 1995. Our colleagues, who were in attendance at that meeting, have stated that Ms. Cunningham made a statement which, in effect, threatens service providers who voice opposition to the government with audits and removal of funding.

As Premier of Ontario, we hope that you will take this issue extremely seriously. It threatens basic and fundamental principles of democracy when community groups are expected to work with the government in an environment clouded with threats. It is most certainly your responsibility to ensure that the government is not using these tactics in its work with the community. It is our hope that your government is committed to working in collaboration with the community in an environment of open and honest communication.

The ONLY way for this government to demonstrate good faith and integrity in dealing with the community is to commence a public inquiry into the comments made by Dianne Cunningham.

Sincerely,

Cheryl May Joanne Lake Gwen Smith Phyllis Lonsbary Irene Fergue Sandra Thompson
The Staff of Quetzal Family Homes

as well as all other women's services, will not suffer *any retaliation* from the Government of Ontario as a result of exercising their democratic right to oppose any government policy and decision they choose on behalf of women and children experiencing violence.

Sincerely,



Eileen Morrow, Lobby Coordinator,
For the Lobby Committee of OAITH.

cc:

Marilyn Churley, NDP
Elinor Caplan, Liberal Party
Battered Women's Advocacy Centre, London
Harmony House, Ottawa

If you don't receive all of the pages, please call us at 416-977-6619)

Stop Violence Against Women Now

cc: Dianne Cunningham, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues
Toby Barrett, M.P.P., Norfolk
Peter Preston, M.P.P., Haldimand
Lyn McLeod, Leader of the Opposition
Bob Rae, Leader of the Third Party
Marilyn Churley, NDP Critic on Women's Issues
Julie Lee, Executive Director, London Battered Women's Advocacy Centre

blows, you're sadly mistaken. We all have ridings to go home to, I also want to have a country to go home to, and that's what's at stake here.

Let me ask the minister, then, one more time. This House has passed resolutions, and the member for London North was in the House on several occasions. We passed motions in this House supporting the Meech Lake accord, we passed motions in this House in support of the Charlottetown accord—

Mr Gilles Pouliot (Lake Nipigon): Unanimously.

Mr Rae: Unanimously in the latter case, without a single dissenting voice; there were a couple of dissents over Meech Lake. I want to ask the minister directly, is she saying that the position of the government of Ontario is less than it was in the Charlottetown accord? And if that's the case you might have had the courtesy to tell us before the last referendum.

Hon Mrs Cunningham: I'd like to make it very clear to the leader of the third party, and a former Premier of this province, that every member in this House is interested in the future of this country. We all want Canada to move forward, together with the citizens of this great country, to be competitive and to reach out to other members of our society.

I'd also like to make it clear that for whatever reason the member has asked this question today, I can say to him sincerely, on behalf of this government, that we have appreciated his involvement throughout his whole life in this issue. We look at him as one of the leaders in advising all governments across this country. I think that was known as we watched him on television on that night and we were very proud to have him there.

We would expect him to continue in good faith in advising us in government as we proceed along this very important course, and that is to create an even better Canada and to move forward with all the citizens of this country and with their support, especially here in the province of Ontario.

The Speaker (Hon Allan K. McLean): New question, third party.

Mr Rae: To the same minister on a different subject, and I can assure the minister that I will be returning to this: The reason I'm discussing it is because I think it's time for the whole country to come to terms with the fact that our very future is at risk and it's something that we all have to talk about. There's no merit in not talking about it.

1430

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Mr Bob Rae (York South): I would like to ask the minister a different question, and it relates to the questions that I raised with her last week concerning the meeting that took place in London on October 20.

Given the fact that there are a number of women here today because they heard the minister's answers the other day and wanted to get a chance to hear them here again—the minister has denied in the House that she said words which have been attributed to her in correspondence with the member for Riverdale. I'd remind the minister that the remark attributed to her is this statement:

"Within the context of this government, you need to understand that groups or agencies that are seen not to be working with this government, providing an oppositional voice [at this point she made reference to Harmony House, an Ottawa second-stage housing project which has been strongly voicing opposition to the cuts] will be audited and their funding eliminated."

The minister has denied that she made those statements, and there are several people who insist that that is in fact what she said. I wonder if the minister now can tell us what suggestion she would have, given this very strong difference of opinion between two people attending the same meeting, of how this issue can be effectively resolved.

Hon Dianne Cunningham (Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, minister responsible for women's issues): I don't think it can be effectively resolved. I don't think those kinds of statements can be effectively resolved.

I certainly know that my intent in meeting with that group was to work with them to solve a problem in London, and I intend to do that.

As far as the reference of the group to Harmony House is concerned, I certainly met with a representative as part of another group a week ago and I intend to meet with them as per requests from the Ottawa members. I'll be meeting with them tomorrow.

Mr Rae: Given the fact that we have a group of people who attended a meeting who insist that they heard the minister say that if they were to continue in opposition to the government, their organizations would be audited and their funding would be eliminated—which is a remark, I'm sure the minister would agree, intimidating in its very nature and can only have the impact of creating a terrible climate for public policy and for the future of the relationship between thousands of agencies and the government of Ontario—I wonder if the minister would agree today to have her remarks and the subject matter of that meeting of October 20 referred to a committee of this House so that in fact it can be possible for us to see who's there.

Hon Mrs Cunningham: All I can say is that the member of the third party is in a very nasty mood, and I would suggest that he knows better than this. I've been elected since 1973. I have always encouraged public participation and debate. I have also encouraged people to speak out against policies they don't agree with. I should say right now that I think, and people have heard me say this over the years, that one of the greatest problems we have in democracy is that people are not involved.

The end result of that meeting, in our notes—and I'm not about to debate this in the House—is that I left them with the challenge of speaking out. I will be meeting with the president of the London second-stage housing board and their executive director at an appropriate time, and that is after we have taken a look in all communities at how we can consolidate the programs and keep our second-stage housing alive. That's our intent and that's what we're working on now.

Mr Rae: I want to assure the minister that I'm in a wonderful mood today. I think members opposite can accommodate that. I've had words to say. I hope the minister isn't suggesting that if I ask questions she finds uncomfortable, that means I'm in a bad mood. No, it doesn't. It means I'm doing my job.

I'm in a very cheery mood. I would say, in a mood of complete cheeriness, that we have a group of people who represent agencies that receive funding from the government of Ontario. They are reputable people, people who take their job seriously. They were at a meeting in which they heard you say something which is completely different from an account which you have now given.

In every other experience in which I've been involved in this House, with several different governments, when you have such a clear question of a different accounting of a conversation that took place, it is immediately referred to a committee and there is an opportunity for the committee itself to hear from all sides.

I'm simply asking the minister, if she's so clear on what she said and so clear that nothing else was said, what would she have to fear from a committee hearing from her and hearing from a group of people who say that's not what she said? What's your problem?

Hon Mrs Cunningham: I don't fear anything. As a matter of fact, I just think it's a total waste of time, and I don't think the taxpayers should be spending money on irrelevant situations where you have no proof except one person and the few women—

Ms Frances Lankin (Beaches-Woodbine): No, no, more than one person. They are all here, Dianne. Look at them.

Mr David S. Cooke (Windsor-Riverside): Try nine, Dianne.

Hon Mrs Cunningham: When you talk about intimidation, I suggest that any member of this House, when they disagree with what's being said in this House, can phone up a group of people and bring them to this place. That's up to you, if you want to do that. I don't feel intimidated in any way and I wouldn't intend to intimidate anybody else.

My job is to look at all of the funding, to coordinate where possible and to make a decision without bias on the best projects for the job and the best institutions that provide the most services for the public of Ontario, who are working very hard to pay their taxes, and a lot harder as a result of your five years in government.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr Bruce Crozier (Essex South): Mr Speaker, I have a bit of a problem in that the minister to whom I'm going to address my question is not in the House.

The Speaker (Hon Allan K. McLean): You can address it to anyone you wish.

Mr Crozier: I was going to give the Minister of Finance a couple of minutes.

Interjection: He's here.

The Speaker: Proceed with your question.

Mr Crozier: Minister, we all know that over the past 18 months insurance premiums in this province for

automobiles have skyrocketed. Rates published just last week show that they've increased 12% over the last quarter, and we had average increases of 11.5% or thereabouts in 1994.

I know for a fact that the current government would agree with me that these increases are due in large part to what we refer to as Bill 164. The minister recognized this problem, as a matter of fact, because last July 18 he appointed his parliamentary assistant to review this current legislation.

I would therefore ask the minister, even though you've appointed your parliamentary assistant to look at the current legislation, will we see legislation either to amend or to repeal Bill 164, and when?

Hon Ernie L. Eves (Deputy Premier, Minister of Finance and Government House Leader): I thank the honourable member for the question. He's quite aware that the member for Mississauga West has indeed been reviewing the entire issue of automobile insurance in the province of Ontario. I am happy to report to him that in the last three months the parliamentary assistant has met with well in excess of 100 different groups about automobile insurance. Yes, we will be bringing forward legislation to deal with the auto insurance situation in the province of Ontario, and hopefully by no later than next spring.

Mr Crozier: The minister knows well that January 1, 1996, is a crucial date when it comes to Bill 164. We're not talking about a tax decrease for rich Ontarians; we're talking about decreased auto insurance premiums for every automobile owner in this province. That includes the little people, Minister.

We have had consultations, as your government has had, over the past year. I don't know why it's going to take you any longer. If this isn't great legislation, that needs—you know, all the drafting errors we had last year. We have the information at hand.

You know that January 1, 1996, is the crucial date. Why won't you bring in legislation before that time to reduce insurance premiums for the auto owners in this province?

Hon Mr Eves: Actually, we had planned to send this issue out for deliberation by an all-party committee of this Legislature during the winter break—I'm sure the honourable member would concur with that—at the conclusion of the parliamentary assistant's deliberations with stakeholders in the industry and the public.

The honourable member wants something done. He just got through criticizing the route the government took on Bill 7 for not having public hearings, and now he doesn't want public hearings on the auto insurance bill. I don't understand where they're coming from.

As a member of the party that introduced Bill 68 into this Legislature, which probably led to the greatest auto insurance premium increases in the history of the province, he should be the last person to be talking about that.

1440

SERVICES FOR ABUSED WOMEN

Ms Marilyn Churley (Riverdale): My question is for the Deputy Premier. Today marks what is traditionally

NDP had in place, with no one representing the justice area at all.

Mr Rae: The question for me is that in announcing the new appointments, the minister told taxpayers that the people were appointed with a background in policing and criminology and forensic psychiatry, in areas of expertise that would assist in deciding who should and shouldn't get parole.

If the minister has waved a piece of pie around, I'm happy to have a look at the pie chart; I'd be delighted to see the pie chart.

But I think the issue is why, in making the announcement he made last week in the House—just as ministers have been making announcements today and we'll now have to go back and look again at every single announcement that's made as to what is not said—why would the minister not have said, "Among the people whose appointments I'm proudest of is my own campaign manager"? Why wouldn't he have said that?

Hon Mr Runciman: We announced, I believe, 34 appointments and we highlighted five or six or seven in the justice area.

Mr David S. Cooke (Windsor-Riverside): I can see why you left this one out.

Hon Mr Runciman: I'm not about to make any apologies for the appointments we made. These are outstanding people.

The leader of the third party, who's asking this question, has no reason to feel proud about the appointees his government made to the parole board of Ontario. He simply has to recall the Wein report. Why was the Wein report instigated? Because of decisions made by parole board appointees appointed by the NDP. I don't want to get into details here, but certainly the leader of the third party has no credibility whatsoever when dealing with appointees to the parole board—none whatsoever.

Mr Rae: I'm delighted to see that the old Bob Runciman is back. We were starting to wonder about the statesman on the other side, and now we realize that Halloween is over and the mask is off.

The question I have to ask the minister is once again the same question: Why, in making the announcement, would he not have had the courtesy and the straightforwardness we always associate with his name to be upfront and say, "The appointment I'm proudest of is not some former chief of police, it's not some professor of forensic psychiatry, but it's my own campaign manager in Leeds"? Why wouldn't he have just said that? I haven't heard an answer to that question.

Hon Mr Runciman: I am proud of the appointment. This is a woman who has over 25 years of community service, voted as the citizen of the year in her community. This question is coming from the man who appointed his own campaign manager as secretary of cabinet. He polluted the public service of Ontario with a political appointee, and he has the gall to get up here today and ask me a question like that. Unbelievable.

1500

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Mr Bob Rae (York South): In the absence of the Premier, I direct my question to the Deputy Premier.

Yesterday, I asked the minister responsible for women's issues whether or not she was willing to have the question of her remarks at a meeting, attended by a number of women in London, made the subject of a committee discussion so that committee members themselves could assess the credibility of the minister's comments and the credibility of the statements made by a number of women who were present.

In response to my question, the minister said no, and outside she said, "I don't think the taxpayers should be spending money on irrelevant situations where you have no proof except one person and a few women." Those remarks are in quotation marks. She said it as well in the Legislature.

If a person from the public, meeting with the minister, says she clearly heard the minister say that if she continued to remain in opposition to the government's policies, her organization could be audited and funding for her organization could be eliminated, would you not agree with me, Deputy Premier, that that remark could be perceived by the person hearing it as intimidation?

Hon Ernie L. Eves (Deputy Premier, Minister of Finance and Government House Leader): I'm sure that anybody with any experience in this House knows of times we have been involved in meetings and there are many different interpretations different people put on words said during meetings. If we referred every single meeting that every single member or cabinet minister had with somebody who disagreed with his or her interpretation of what was said, it would be a huge waste of the taxpayers' money.

Mr Rae: This is an issue about which the Deputy Premier in a previous role, in which I remember him very well, I think would have recognized the difference between a difference of opinion, between somebody taking issue with something somebody says, which is common in politics, and someone coming away from a meeting feeling that the person in question, a minister, has intimidated them and their organization and has in a sense indicated that if someone continues to remain in opposition to the government, their very position will be threatened.

This is not simply a difference of opinion between a couple of people. We now have not only the woman who wrote the letter, Ms Julie Lee, who's the executive director of the London Battered Women's Advocacy Centre, we also have Mary Ellen Mellanson and Connie Boles of London Second Stage Housing who agree completely with the account Ms Lee has given in the letter she sent to us and which I sent over to the minister the other day.

Just to remind the minister, what she said is, "Within the context of this government, you need to understand that groups or agencies that are seen not to be working with this government, providing an oppositional voice, will be audited and their funding eliminated."

Those are very threatening words. Either the minister said them or she didn't. She's told the House that she didn't; other people insist that she did. Why not have a committee of this House discuss whether or not the minister abused her power in this way?

Hon Mr Eves: The minister has stood in her place in this House, said that she has met with many groups besides this one, that she did not threaten or intimidate anyone and that she continues to fund the London Battered Women's Advocacy Centre.

Mr Rae: If it were just one person, you'd say fine, one person. It's several people who were at a meeting, all women, coming forward saying: "This is what we heard. This is what we believe the minister said. This is what we heard the minister to say: that if we keep this up, we will be audited and our funding will be eliminated." Those are words of intimidation. Those are words which lend themselves to an abuse of power.

I would have thought that it's in the interests of the minister. If the minister is very clear that she didn't say it and the minister is absolutely emphatic that nothing like this happened, what is the problem with sending this to a committee so the committee can hear from the women who were there, as well as from the minister, to try to clear the matter up? What have you people got to hide over there?

Hon Mr Eves: The minister has answered the question in the House, as the honourable member knows. She has said that she has not made these remarks.

As I said at the outset, in answer to his very first question, if we had a legislative committee investigate every time somebody in a meeting with a minister said they said something, it would be a gigantic waste of taxpayers' money and committee time.

CHILD CARE

Mrs Sandra Papatello (Windsor-Sandwich): My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Minister Tsubouchi, I'd like you to confirm or refute today's Toronto Star article outlining that you are considering the implementation of a voucher system for child care in Ontario.

Hon David H. Tsubouchi (Minister of Community and Social Services): Very simply, the particular article refers to some sort of report. Clearly, no report has ever been delivered to me.

Mrs Papatello: The minister clearly campaigned on being supportive of child care in Ontario. During the campaign, you touted an earning and learning program. Since taking office, however, you've eliminated 14,000 day care spaces and you've threatened the elimination of the wage-enhancement grant for child care workers. There are a number of things you're doing to threaten child care across Ontario. In fact, two weeks ago the minister received a letter from Minister Axworthy, federally, encouraging a meeting to look at a partnership for child care because we all recognize the need for it.

You have touted the fact that you're in support of child care. Clearly, there is something going on in your ministry that's outlining a voucher program that is outrageous and threatens the whole child care industry. It seems to me that you're not aware of it or you're not prepared to stand up today and say you are supporting child care and will back it with some kind of initiative. Will the minister kindly give me an answer other than the \$1,200-a-day consultant answer; that's not the one we're looking for.

Hon Mr Tsubouchi: First of all, this government is in favour, has spoken for clearly in terms of good quality and affordable care for our children. We do that by providing choice to the communities. There are a number of issues there. I'm going to deal with the main issue as opposed to the scattered issues in that statement.

Frankly, we have a two-phase approach. We've already completed the first phase. What it did was we stopped the conversion of child care spaces, which did not create one single child care space in the province but had a huge cost to it, this program. In fact, by March 1997 this initiative will have saved \$20 million.

Secondly, we are welcoming the private sector back in the child care area. We are levelling the playing field, and we are increasing parental choice.

Interjections.

Hon Mr Tsubouchi: We have a second phase here, if you wouldn't mind me just commenting on it for a second. The ministry is in the early stages right now of doing an overall review of the child care area, because obviously the system doesn't work and we have a commitment to the child care area. This review is going to be done under the able leadership of my parliamentary assistant, Janet Ecker.

The Speaker (Hon Allan K. McLean): New question; the member for Windsor-Riverside.

Mr David S. Cooke (Windsor-Riverside): I have a question to the same minister. Mr Minister, I know you don't always read documents before you sign them, but this morning I am sure that as part of your regular routine you would have taken a look at the press clippings and you would have seen a reference in the Toronto Star article to a cabinet submission that's being prepared, a document within your own ministry, with regard to converting the system we currently have of direct funding of child care centres in this province, a system that has been in place for over half a century.

I am sure you would then ask your officials where that document is and what the status of it was and that you would review that document. Can you confirm that there is a document that exists about your system for child care in your ministry?

Hon Mr Tsubouchi: I've answered the question already, but if you want some more clarification in terms of what we are doing, we are levelling the playing field. It's very important for us to provide parental choice to the community. Frankly, the system that was working before, you know, it's all going to come out under this overall child care review that we're doing. We will see the inconsistencies of the prior government. We're going to go for a system that really works for the taxpayer in the province of Ontario.

Mr Cooke: Obviously this minister has a philosophy: "If I don't ask anything, I don't have to read anything, and then it can go on my signing machine and I don't need to know anything."

This is a very important issue. For over half a century governments have provided regulation and direct subsidy for child care centres to improve the quality of child care in this province. If we're moving to a voucher system in

END

London Free Press

THURSDAY, November 2, 1995

QUEEN'S PARK

London MPP objects to inquiry

Dianne Cunningham
says it would be a
waste of time, money.

By Greg Van Moorsel
Queen's Park Bureau

TORONTO.— Women's Issues Minister Dianne Cunningham Wednesday rejected an NDP call for a public inquiry into an accusation she told some London women's advocates that groups which speak out against government spending cuts risk being audited and cut off.

"I just think it (an inquiry) is a total waste of time," the London North MPP told the legislature, as some home-town women's advocates watched from a visitors' gallery. "I don't think taxpayers should be spending money on irrelevant situations where you have no proof."

The issue arose on the same day members of the Tory government refused to consent to all-party statements in the legislature marking the start of Wife-Assault Prevention Month in Ontario, putting Cunningham on the hot seat.

LONDONERS: Julie Lee, executive director of the London Battered Women's Advocacy Centre, and other women from London Second Stage Housing, a shelter for abused women and children, say Cunningham made the remark about opposition to spending cuts at a meeting in her London office Oct. 20.

Of the 10 women at the meeting, The Free Press was told, two were out of the room when the comment was said to have been made; two didn't hear it and six support Lee's account of it. Lee said she took it as a warning.

NDP leader Bob Rae first raised the allegation in the legislature earlier this month, calling Cunningham one of the Tory government's cost-cutting "executioners," and Wednesday he asked for an inquiry to resolve what was said.

But Cunningham, who adamantly denies making such a remark, told the legislature she encourages people to "speak out" on policies they oppose and she dismissed the call for an inquiry.

NOT SERIOUS: Later, Cunningham told reporters she didn't believe Rae was "very serious" in his call and suggested she interprets the whole issue as a misunderstanding.

"You've got a group of people in a room, and one person says one thing, and one says the other thing, and nothing's happened as a result of it except that they still have their funding," she said.

Lee was among a group of London women who watched as Rae challenged Cunningham about what was said in her constituency office.

Later, Lee said she feels "very betrayed" by the government and that many community groups opposed to spending cuts are sensing a "chilly climate" moving in from Queen's Park.

Whether or not Cunningham meant to be "supportive," Lee said, the impression left with the women was not to rock the boat.

1 month Spec
Tories say Tories

Threatened them

ac demands

robe of alleged
inding cut-offs

By KELLY TOWNHILL,
Queens Park Bureau
Ontario's Progressive Conser-
ve government has threat-
ed to cut funding to groups
that speak out against its poli-
cies, says New Democratic Par-
ty leader Bob Rae.

Rae yesterday demanded a
parliamentary committee investigate
allegations that Women's Issues
Minister Dianne Cunningham
met a group of London ed-
ucators for battered women that
y risked losing funds if they
lose her government's poli-
cies.

Cunningham has denied the
allegation and yesterday dis-
missed Rae's call for an invest-
igation as "a total waste of
time."
"I don't think the taxpayers
should be spending money on
irrelevant situations where you
have no proof except one per-
son's word," she said.
Cunningham said in the Legislature
she always encouraged
public participation and debate.
She also encouraged people

PS.1

Nov 2/89

to speak out against policies
that in fact they don't agree
with.

During summer, yesterday, it
was suggested that Cunningham would
attend an Oct. 20 meeting that her gov-
ernment will reallocate against
groups that oppose its policies.
Mary Elsie Melanson told
Rae - Please see Text, A15

Tories threatened fund cuts for policy foes, Rae charges

Continued from A1
Connie Boles of London Second
Stage Housing and Julie Lee,
executive director of the Lon-
don Battered Women's Advocacy
Centre, were at the meeting.
Lee took notes after the meet-
ing and all three yesterday
said that Cunningham said:
"In the context of this gov-
ernment, you need to under-
stand that groups or agencies
that have been not to be working
with this government, providing
no oppositional voice... will be
funded, and their funding elimi-
nated."
Meanwhile, the Ontario Asso-
ciation of Interval and Transi-
tion Centres yesterday discov-

ered it has lost all its
government funding. The asso-
ciation, which advocates on be-
half of battered women, has
been very critical of the govern-
ment's policies so far.
"Over the past few weeks,
we've seen the slashing of many
of the programs and services
abused women count on for
help to leave violence," the as-
sociation said in a prepared
news release.
"Mike Harris will be held ac-
countable by Ontario women
for the despicable and life-
threatening attacks on them and
their children by this govern-
ment."
Liberal MPP Dominic

no accused the government of
unfairly cutting services for
women.
"Silencing this group is an-
other attempt to silence your
opposition," Agostino said in
the Legislature.
Cunningham said the group's
funding was cut because it does
not provide a "core service" that
helps directly to women
and children.
Opposition members also
complained yesterday that the
government refused to allow
an extra time in the Legisla-
ture to commemorate Novem-
ber as wife abuse prevention
month, which began yesterday.

PETITION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Whereas six women present at a meeting held by Minister Responsible for Women's Issues Diane Cunningham at her constituency office on October 25, 1995, agree that they heard the Minister state: "Within the context of this government, you need to understand that groups or agencies that are seen not to be working with this government, providing an oppositional voice....will be audited and their funding eliminated";

And, whereas the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues denies having made the statement;

We, the undersigned, request that the Government establish a Legislative Committee to determine whether the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues abused her authority as a Minister of the Crown by making threatening and intimidating remarks at the meeting described above.

NAME (print) ADDRESS SIGNATURE

JANE ANWEILER 701-123 EDWARD ST, TORONTO M5G 1E2 *Jane Anweiler*

GERI SANSON 701-123 EDWARD ST, TORONTO, M5G 1E2 *Geri Sanson*

Doug MacLeod 711-123 Edward St Toronto M5G 1E2 *Doug MacLeod*

Diane Oestiw " *[Signature]*

Multiple horizontal lines for additional signatures and names.

PETITION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

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NAME (please print)	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
MARILYN McGRATH	22 Bonfield Pl. Kitchener	[Signature]
Christine Pier	8 Woodgate Circle Cambridge	[Signature]
Lori Thomson	127 Concession St. Cambridge	[Signature]
Julie Daigle	49-20 Osborne St. Cambridge	[Signature]
[Name]	47 Waverley Ave. Cambridge	[Signature]
[Name]	148 Glamis Cambridge	[Signature]
Brenda Carter	208 Huron St. Cambridge	[Signature]
Tina Raita	159 WHEATFIELD CRT Cambridge	[Signature]
Philake Jones	123 Pollock Ave. Cambridge	[Signature]
PAT HAWES	APT 9, 10 GLEN RD. CAMBRIDGE, ONT. - R-11 Area	[Signature]
Ronda Rawn	1801 Daleview Cres Cambridge, ON Ronda Rawn	[Signature]
Mish Quigley	133 Selwa Cres Cambridge ON Mish Quigley	[Signature]
Kelly Richardson	248 Cedar St. Camb Kelly Richardson	[Signature]
Sandra Cabral	139 Park Ave. Camb Sandra Cabral	[Signature]
R. Illecco Leidy	1763 Holley Cres. Rebecca Leidy	[Signature]
Kim Keeling	58 Juniper St. Cambridge Kim Keeling	[Signature]
Paula Roberts	158 Marmel Ct. Cambridge Paula Roberts	[Signature]
Kristi Mason	916 Hamilton St. Camb. Kristi Mason	[Signature]
Meredith Black	555 Queenston rd. Cambridge Meredith Black	[Signature]
Theresa Van Horn	235 Fenwick Ave. H-51	[Signature]
Linda Cicann	355 [Address]	[Signature]

PETITION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

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NAME (please print)

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

- [Signature] Bonita Simmons 29 Pacific Ave Cambridge
- Dorothy McCarthy 318 Feuntun St Cambridge Dorothy McCarthy
- Ann Newcombe 29 Redford Cambridge Ann Newcombe
- Valentina Barros 87 Saxony creek Lamb Valentina Barros
- Dianne Brooks 51 Murray College Cambridge D. Brooks
- MARIA FERGUSON 3 BELLEFLEET CAMBRIDGE Maria Ferguson
- Shelley Guy 937 Caledonian View Cambridge Shelley Guy
- Shannon Patterson 14 Pollock Cambridge Shannon Patterson
- Don Thomson 127 Concession St Camb Don Thomson
- Barbara-Ann Portland 8 Charles St. Guelph Barbara-Ann Portland
- Paula Drake-Jones 123 Pollock Ave. Camb Paula Drake-Jones
- Pauline Moran 20 Pretz Ave Camb. Pauline Moran
- Kia Amara 45-1 Halbins 13 Kitchener Kia Amara
- ms. Shou Hou #404 - 10 George St & Lamb Ont. Shou Hou
- Joanne Awey 18 Kell St. Cambridge Joanne Awey
- Marie Polverini 1763 D'Auvergne Rd Kitchener Marie Polverini
- Ms. McSweeney 611 Laurel Street Cambridge Ms. McSweeney
- Mised Morris 57 Berkeley Rd Cambridge Mised Morris
- Miz Santo 16 Beechwood Rd. Cambridge Miz Santo
- Josefina H. Barros 57A Dalph St Josefina H. Barros

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NAME (please print)	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Diane Hainfe	London	Diane Hainfe
Christie B. Carter	London	Christie B. Carter
KAR GRAHAM	39 TERESA LONDON	Kar Graham
REG QUINTON	37 TERESA	Reg Quinton
MARY BAMBRICK	8-810 Maitland	Mary Bambrick
Ken Bambrick	"	Ken Bambrick
Deborah Roberts	37 Beaulieu	Deborah Roberts
AILEEN M. M. M. M.	359 Central	Aileen M. M. M.
BONNIE MACHACHLAN	93 Peter St	Bonnie Machachlan
Kim Hall	603-95 Fuller's Green Rd London	Kim Hall
Blondy	332 CHESSBOSS ST LONDON, ON N6A-2A6	Blondy
Elizabeth	283 South St London	Elizabeth
Annaliese Pitt	242 Killarney Rd.	Annaliese Pitt
LIZ RAIN	283 South St London	Liz Rain
Jacqueline Vanhaan	2-501 Oxford St. E. Lond	Jacqueline Vanhaan
Bob Boon	275 Richmond St Parkville	Bob Boon
Heather Hewart	R.R.#1 AUSA CRAIG	Heather Hewart
Elaine John	433 Everglade Ave London	Elaine John
Janice MARCHANT	56 ASLIN ST	Janice Marchant
Antonia Mausquin	235 Rainbow Ave. London, Ont	Antonia Mausquin

Collected in London, Ont
Nov 9/95

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NAME (please print)	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Jane Bigelow	London, Ont	[Signature]
Maureen Rice	Windsor, Ont	[Signature]
Theresa Hancock	11 Grasslands # 522	[Signature]
Joan Mason-Grant	150 Brookwood London	[Signature]
Cathy Cindy Hayne	Mats Lane	[Signature]
Jean LeBel		
Suzanne London		[Signature]
Jane		
Catherine Crahan	15 Baldwin St St Catharines	[Signature]
Suzanne	36 York St London	[Signature]
Tracey Plummer	St Thomas	[Signature]
Ruth	169 Foster Ave London	[Signature]
Vivie	? - 386 Highway 206 W. London	[Signature]
Cathy	London	[Signature]
Barb Beck	1312 Highway 4 Ave. F. Kent	[Signature]
Stella	Box 1520 London	[Signature]
Mary Frances	956 Colborne St	[Signature]
MARY Zeluska	1574 Phillbrook Dr London N5X2S4	[Signature]
LISA KIRB	26 Carlton Ave London	[Signature]

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Nov 9/95

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NAME (please print)	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Laura Kovacic	88 Oakville Ave London	Laura Kovacic
KRISTINA BARBOSA	#3-18 EVERGREEN AVE LONDON	Kristina Barbosa
Bill Donovan	#915 Vine St Cambridge	Bill Donovan
Jami Sowerby	906-498 Queens Ave	Jami Sowerby
Nichele Bennett	810 Huron St London	Nichele Bennett
Richard ...	76 Stone ...	Richard ...
Mona ...	1039 ...	Mona ...
Anna Turek	758 KIPPE, Lane London	Anna Turek
Branda Barry	1919 Trafalgar St.	Branda Barry
Lilianna Gut	563 Morrington Av 802 London	Lilianna Gut
J. Slater	49 Westchester Dr London	J. Slater
JUSY COULTO	150 Chesley Ave London	Jusy Coult
Wendy Goslin	1-735 Richmond St London Ont.	Wendy Goslin
Diana ...	1351 ... RDS	Diana ...

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NAME (please print) ADDRESS SIGNATURE
CATHERINE BURR London, Ont 454 Sprucedale London N5X1J7 Catherine Burr

Card Agocs 1454 Sprucedale Ave, London N5X1Y4 Card Agocs

RONI MORROW 611 WILLIAM ST. RONI MORROW
KIM SILVERSON " "

Kelly Hislop 1055 Brough St London Kelly Hislop

LISA KING 26 CARLTON AVE LONDON LISA KING

MARLENE CUMMINGS 803 305 DUFFERIN ST. MARLENE CUMMINGS

DEBRA ANN 67 KOLB DEBRA ANN

DIANE O'NEILL 716 CHESTER DIANE O'NEILL

RON TOWNSON 21 COLLIER AVE RON TOWNSON

Collected in London, Ont
Nov 9/95

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NAME (please print)	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Meggin Walker	237 W. Walsby Ave	Meggin Walker
TEMM DONOVAN	167 DONNA ST.	Tem Donovan
CAROLYN BRASLEY	251 RIVERSIDE DR	Carolyn Brasley
Shirine Pasha	785 Wellington St	Shirine Pasha
A Rivers	154 Gardenwood Dr	A Rivers
Sajhika Houck	66 Stanley St.	Sajhika Houck
Jodi Hall	880 Kippis Lane	Jodi Hall
Deyonne Strickland	RR#4 Komoka	Deyonne Strickland
J. Shorland	14 Ashbury Ave	J. Shorland
Mary Ellen Melanson	77 Broadway Ave	Mary Ellen Melanson
Kathy Salandziak	21 Hart Cres	Kathy Salandziak
Shelley Yeo	282 Edward St	Shelley Yeo
Jan Anderson	199 Edward St	Jan Anderson
Anne Murphy	205 Tocumset Ave E. London	Anne Murphy
Jennifer Sontrop	30 Chapman ... Kip 1210	Jennifer Sontrop
Gudrun Dackstader	316 Egeria 157267	Gudrun Dackstader
Debbie Turnbull	62 Sandalwood Cr	Debbie Turnbull
LEGGING MCNEIL	2032 ALPERSBROOK RD.	Legging McNeil
Charles McNeil	" " " "	Charles McNeil
Melanie Brown	998 Kippis Ln	Melanie Brown

Collected in London, Ont
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NAME (please print)	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Mike Aye	521-520 Williams St. London, Ont	[Signature]
Leslie Thierlein	6175 185 Bloor St. W. Toronto	[Signature]
Leah Davidson	54 Bannockburn St. London	[Signature]
Christine Greig	West Lambton St. London	[Signature]
Sally Kenyon	300 Adelaide Blvd. London	[Signature]
Andi Hall	Kensington London	[Signature]
Tina Taylor	15 Golding Crescent London	[Signature]
Mary Lou	15 Golding Pl. London	[Signature]
KATHY BROWN	London	[Signature]
Mimi	139 James St. London	[Signature]
1313	1313 The Dawn Ave #4 London	[Signature]
Tracy	512-516 ... London	[Signature]
Monica	141 Galt Ave. London	[Signature]

Collected in London, Ont
NOV 9 / 95

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NAME (please print)	ADDRESS	CITY	SIGNATURE
SUWAN E. SMITH	707 ALANBOROUGH ST	LONDON ONT	[Signature]
Susan Kelly	3937 Hamilton Rd	Mississauga	[Signature]
Van's Rabbit skin	455 Parson	[City]	[Signature]
Heather Clarke	2 Briarhill Pl. NSY 1P7	St. Catharines	[Signature]
Wendy Jones	551 Talbot St. N6A 2T2	Windsor	[Signature]
BRAD WALLACE	465-205 CHURCH ST. E.	[City]	[Signature]
LORRAINE McNEIL	273 ALDEN ST. MARKHAM	Markham	[Signature]
Charles McNeil	2032 Alderbrook Rd	[City]	[Signature]
Misula Danovan	692 Harbort St	London	[Signature]
Mary Beth McKinnel	310 GOSVENDOR ST	Markham	[Signature]
Barbara MIT	205-3944 HALFRUSS RD	Brimley	[Signature]
Jane van Boedel	139 Thame St N	LONDON	[Signature]
Mary Oudky	747 NELSON ST.	LONDON	[Signature]
Debra Regan	360 Castlebrook	N6G 3X5	[Signature]
PASQUALINA CARDU	2-433 WATERLOO ST.	N6B 2	[Signature]
LIZ RAIN	283 South St.	N6S 1B6	[Signature]
Linda Broeders	275 Richmond St	Paris Hill, Ont	[Signature]
FRANCESCO FORTINO	4111 GERRARD ST E	MARKHAM	[Signature]
Judith Regan	321 Maxwell St	London	[Signature]

Collected in London, Ont
Nov 9/95

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NAME (please print)	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Laurie Legue	381 Southcrest Dr London Ont	Laurie Legue
ROBERTA STEMPEL	4 DAVID ST. BAYVIEW	[Signature]
M. SIFFEL	43 TILBURN ST. BAYVIEW	[Signature]
Alfredo Marroquin	235 Rainbow Ave.	[Signature]
Rose Sanders	1/ ALLEN CREST	[Signature]
Tanya Le...	10 ALSTINE	
Margaret Neill	361 Wyndmore Rd	[Signature]
Judith Con...	2 RY DENFIELD CRT	[Signature]
Dore Gardner	452 7976 412-583	[Signature]
Lynne Shantz	439-544 568	[Signature]
Don BAINBRIDGE	672-8916 366 ST. FRANCIS	[Signature]
Ruby E...	402 Jarvis St London	[Signature]
Nicole Yurkoski	467 Church St N. York	[Signature]
Terry Boyd	17 Maple Place London N6C 3	[Signature]
Randi Abel	266 St. James St. N4H	[Signature]
Chris E...	422 Jarvis St. London N6K1	[Signature]
Ann Sudo	65.5 Southwick St St 7	[Signature]
Paul Sudo	65.5	[Signature]

Collected in London, Ontario
Nov 9/95

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NAME (please print)	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Christine Collins	433 ...	<i>[Signature]</i>
Maureen Sullivan	763 Biant St. Willowdale	<i>[Signature]</i>
Lois Hoefling	170 Kest St Apt 1005 - 4th floor	<i>[Signature]</i>
Jada	32 Haverhill E. J. CADY	<i>[Signature]</i>
Debra ...	Box 207 Bayfield	<i>[Signature]</i>
Michael ...	1123 ...	<i>[Signature]</i>
Mike Wilson	946 Colborne St. London N6A 4A6	<i>[Signature]</i>
Shanna ...	257 Windermere ... N6G 3J8	<i>[Signature]</i>
Judy Core	190 Langarth St E London N6C 1Z5	<i>[Signature]</i>
Faris Hussain	11-125 Oxford E. London N6A 1T4	<i>[Signature]</i>
Samantha Gardner	42-583 MORNINGTON AVE. / Card	<i>[Signature]</i>
Toni Lukic	621608 ROEHAMPTON AVE N5Y 3E9	<i>[Signature]</i>
Jen Bainbridge	366 St James St N6A 1Y7	<i>[Signature]</i>
Caithlin Bainbridge	366 St. James St. N6A 1Y7	<i>[Signature]</i>
Colleen Kearns	761 Hellmuth N6A 3T6	<i>[Signature]</i>
Tina ...	781 Hollanti N6A 3T6	<i>[Signature]</i>
J. ...	1541 EY 17 Marley, Ph N6C 3S9	<i>[Signature]</i>
A. ...	114 Victoria 434-5843	<i>[Signature]</i>
J. ...	51 ... Ave 474-2107	<i>[Signature]</i>
Patricia ...	1058 Lombard Ave 434-4180	<i>[Signature]</i>

Collected in London, Ontario
Nov 7/95.

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Kim Tremblay	626 HORNE	Kim Tremblay
Cheryl RATHBORN	132 LELANDRD	
May Hawara	550 Hamilton	
Nancy Nuttall	40 Heather	Nuttall
Elayne Welbourne	69 Smith St.	E. Welbourne
Margaret Whaling	274 Ham. ^{Upper} Harold	Margaret Whaling
Margie McCollum	120690 K. Hillcrest	M. McCollum
Ane Marie Curtis	550 Hamilton rd.	Ane Marie Curtis
Chris Murray	712 Little Grey St. Upper	Chris Murray
Abby Dye	792 Little grey st. #2	Abby Dye
Connie St. Pierre	22 Bow St.	Connie St. Pierre
Jan Bainbridge	366 St. James St	Jan Bainbridge
Jacky Craun	Box 100 Detourne	
Debbie Allen	480 Dame St	Debbie Allen
Juan Marshall	5 Howe St.	Juan Marshall
Gene Wilms	550 Hamilton Rd.	Gene Wilms
Baldina Moray	834 Stanby St.	America's
Shirley Duggan	31 Waver	Shirley Densmore
Philippa Chelan	A. Thomas	P. Phelan
Greg Triebner	120 Dundas	Greg Triebner
Silviana Gut	563 Merrimack	Silviana Gut
Ann Cloutier	520 Inna Blvd #43, London, Ont	

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NAME (please print)	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Laura Sutcliffe	595 Santa Monica Rd., N6H3V9	<i>Laura Sutcliffe</i>
Angela Lazenby	#707-1178 Adelaide St	<i>Angela Lazenby</i>
Suey Tribuzi	#3-126 Dundas	<i>Suey Tribuzi</i>
BRUCE FRANKUN	1-104 Adelaide St N	<i>Bruce Frankun</i>
Paula Niven	133 Blackaces Blvd	<i>Paula Niven</i>
DENIS GADWA	536 ADEVON AVE.	<i>Denis Gadwa</i>
PAMELA MITCHELL	#1-1244 BAXTER AVE W	<i>Pamela Mitchell</i>
Karen Priddy	#1-11111111 AVE	<i>Karen Priddy</i>
CHRISTINE LYSZCZAK	30-1511 ERNEST AVE - LONDON	<i>Christine Lyszczak</i>
Kelly Manners	#507-5531 Mornington Ave. London	<i>Kelly Manners</i>
JANE PITT	87 CONWAY DR. LONDON W6STK, ONT.	<i>Jane Pitt</i>
JULIA GRIFFIN	1-279 VANSITTART AVE	<i>Julia Griffin</i>
TINA LIGHTFOOT	1617 MARDELL ST	<i>Tina Lightfoot</i>
DICK RASTIN	480 LAWSON RD LONDON	<i>Dick Rastin</i>
Amanda Baier	5163 Mornington Ave.	<i>Amanda Baier</i>
Kelly MacLellan	186 King St.	<i>Kelly MacLellan</i>
Cathy Pintus	74 Pine Valley Dr.	<i>Cathy Pintus</i>
Melissa Hodder	315-43 Commissioners Rd W	<i>Melissa Hodder</i>
Julie Murphy	94 English St South	<i>Julie Murphy</i>
Denise McLeod	3 main St London	<i>Denise McLeod</i>
Taralee Nanavati	14 Beaumont Cr.	<i>Taralee Nanavati</i>
Simon Redford	293 New Rd O.	<i>Simon Redford</i>

