

September 7,2000

To: Senator Landon Pearson  
Advisor on Children's Rights  
210-East Block  
Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0A4

Re: **The violation of children's rights: the reality of ritual abuse-torture**

As you prepare to be the Personal Representative of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien for the Special Session on Children of the General Assembly to be held in New York in 2001 we want to bring to your attention the plight of a specific group of Canadian children who have been victims of ritual abuse-torture by families or groups. We believe that some of the children you have been advocating for could also be ritual abuse-torture survivors as sexual exploitation is a very common method of control used by ritual abuse-torture groups. We are asking that you consider the child victims of ritual abuse -torture and place their reality of ritual abuse -torture on the agenda for discussion at the Special Session on Children in September 2001.

For the last eight years we have been active in helping persons heal from abuse, torture and ritual abuse-torture. As part of our work we have been conducting kitchen-table research with adult women who have experienced ritual abuse-torture from infancy and some to their adult years. They have recalled many horrific experiences of sexual exploitation where the ritual abuse -torture groups gained extreme pleasure, power, and large financial profit from their suffering. If these women were children today they would certainly benefit from your work as Canada's Advisor on Children's Rights. As some of the women we interviewed have told us that children are still being born into ritual abuse-torture groups in our province of Nova Scotia and an enclosed Canadian literature review shows extensive writing on this difficult topic we ask you to think of the children you are advocating for in a different light and include another group of children to your list; those children who are experiencing ritual abuse-torture in Canada.

We are presently writing a book which encompasses this reality of ritual abuse-torture and are sending you a section of our book in progress providing you with a detailed explanation of the relationships of ritual abuse-torture. We are asking you to shift your thinking somewhat and place the reality of torture with Canadian children as well as other children of the world community. The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* attests to the reality that children are frequently victims of abuses, torture and exploitation and we believe that Canadian children who are experiencing torture and ritual abuse-torture deserve the same protection under the *Convention* as all other children now known to be experiencing torture in other countries.

After speaking with Yolanda your assistant last week we have become aware that you will be attending the 5<sup>th</sup> ministerial meeting for Social Policy and Children re. Special Session on Children in Jamaica on October 9-13,2000. She explained there would be Latin American countries attending the meetings who are well aware of children experiencing torture in their countries and

it seems our information is timely for this meeting. We hope it reaches you soon enough time to digest and raise the issue of ritual abuse-torture of children for meaningful dialogue.

We began our relationship with you and your office approximately three years ago first thru a pleasant telephone conversation with you followed by ongoing telephone contact with your assistant Yolanda. We have valued your advocacy work on behalf of children and have found your mailed written material an inspiration to us in our tireless advocacy efforts to raise awareness about the ritual abuse-torture of children. We have been promising Yolanda a written document for your reading for sometime and are thrilled to finally be able to send it to you. You will note we have included your office as part of the solution for policy change on page 25 and would certainly be willing to meet with you face to face to talk in more depth about such a horrific reality for Canadian children. If you have any questions after reading the information please contact as we are very committed to breaking the silence about the crimes committed against the rights and humanity of children.

Truthfully,

Jeanne Sarson R.N., B.ScN., M.Ed. & Linda MacDonald R.N., B.N., M.Ed.