

March 04, 2005

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Rd. East
Barrie, Ont.
[REDACTED]

The Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister

RE: Can you help to stop the violation of my basic rights and freedoms and abuse of my family by the York Region Children's Aid Society!

My name is [REDACTED], I am 13 years old and go to school in Barrie, Ontario. I am currently in hiding from authorities to protect myself from being taken away and abused by the York Children's Aid Society. I want someone with the government to listen to me and to help me.

I am asking for your help because my family is being abused and terrorized by the York Region Children's Aid Society from Newmarket, Ontario and nobody seems to be doing anything to stop it. I am currently in hiding with friends and have been made into a fugitive because unlicensed and unregulated workers with the York Region Children's Aid Society have abused the process of the Law and have violated my rights and the rights of my family as guaranteed under the Canadian Bill of Rights and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

I have a children's lawyer appointed to me by the courts but the lawyer has refused to put a motion in court to protect me and to ask the court that I be allowed to return home. She said that she will not apply the law to protect me because I ran away from the authorities who were abusing me and that I should not have done this. She has refused to act in my interest and seems to be working more for those who want to punish me and to isolate me from my family. On top of that she has lied to me. I was apprehended illegally and in contravention of the Child and Family Services Act of Ontario, yet, those workers seem to be able to violate the law with nobody doing anything about it, not even my lawyer and not even the police!

Attached, please find two letters I sent to the Premier of Ontario asking for help which should help explain my situation. Unfortunately, after I sent my letters to Premier McGuinty, unlicensed workers with the York Region Children's Aid society showed up at my father's home with police officers armed with an apprehension warrant to take me away so that they could silence me. I am hiding out with friends so they did not find me. My brothers said it was terrifying to have the police go through and search every corner of our home looking for me. It would appear that a copy of my letter to Premier McGuinty was given to those who have been abusing me and violating my rights and freedoms.

These child protection workers are trying very hard to get me and to put me away somewhere where they can silence me because I can think for myself and have chosen to fight for my rights and freedoms. I have chosen to stand up and to not to give into their threats and intimidation.

I'm a normal 13-year-old teen who has a pretty normal family. I don't drink or smoke. I work hard in school and like playing basketball and volleyball. My dad comes to all of my basketball and volleyball games and he been a volunteer parent at my school for years. I have friends at school. Prior to the York CAS becoming involved in my family at the insistence of my abusive mother, I lived with my father and two older brothers. We certainly are not poor and live in a nice home, in a nice neighbourhood and within a short walk to my school. My father is a senior pilot with Air Canada so my brothers and I have been lucky enough to have travelled to many parts of the world with our dad. Other than for my mother sometimes making things difficult for my family, I was happy living with my dad and my brothers up until the time that the York CAS decided to intrude into our family.

As a teenage Canadian I must say that I am extremely disappointed with how the Justice System allows these workers with the York Region Children's Aid Society to abuse children and families and to get away with it. We read about people in other countries being persecuted, yet here I am, a teenager living in Canada and I am now having to hide out with my friends, out of fear of these CAS workers and the police who get to do the dirty-work of apprehending kids for the CAS. I should be in school, yet I am afraid to go to my school because I know that I will be apprehended and punished for speaking out and speaking the truth. One time I read a book about Ann Frank, the girl that had to hide from the Nazi soldiers during the War and I think of her when I have to sit and think to myself how now I am having to hide from the very authorities who are supposed to protect us.

We are supposed to trust and have respect for the police and we are supposed to obey the law. Yet these people have let me and my family down and the law has not protected my rights and freedoms. I am afraid of these people and do not trust them anymore. I am a Canadian teen and yet now in my own country of Canada, I have to hide to protect myself from those who claim to protect children. Something is terribly wrong with this. Kids in Canada should not have to hide like this and to be afraid.

I am not alone. I just recently found out that another girl from my community, who is also 13 years old, was taken away by the York Children's Aid Society and that her family has not been able to be with her for almost 2 years. I understand that she, like myself, was threatened, coerced and separated from her family in order to silence her. It seems that unlicensed and unregulated workers who have not much more training than a college degree, have more power with less accountability than even the police. These workers with the CAS basically told me that if I didn't stop talking to people and keep my mouth shut that I would be sent away to another foster home to keep me from seeing my family. These unlicensed people threatened me with taking away my family!

I have written to my children's Lawyer but she has not responded and refused to help me. In fact, my children's lawyer from Ontario's Office of the Children's Lawyer has outright lied to me and misinformed me. My lawyer and workers with the York CAS are all trying to get me to go back to live with my abusive mother. My mother has physically assaulted me but the police and the workers with the York Children's Aid Society only seem to want to protect her. My mother has come to the

school and threatened my brother and made a big scene at school in front of everyone in going against to a court Order, but nobody does anything to her!

It seems that the police, the courts, the lawyers and the Children's Aid Society workers do not want to listen to what we kids have to say. Even though my father has never been committed of a crime, these CAS workers have overruled a judge's order and labelled my father as some criminal. These workers have done everything to support my mother who is the parent who has abused us. My brothers and I chose to live with our dad because we were being abused by our mother.

If unlicensed and unregulated workers with a children's aid agency can just walk in and destroy a family like this, while the authorities just stand by and do nothing, then something is terribly wrong with our system of Justice and our laws.

Just as I told the Premier McGuinty in my letter, I just want to back to school, I just want to be back with my family, I want to be back in my home and I want these workers with the York Region Children's Aid Society to just let me get on with my life. I want to be with my family where I feel safe, secure and where I know I am loved. I do not want to go back into their care where I was lied to and threatened.

As a young Canadian, this is the least that my country should be able to guarantee me is my freedom. But currently, I am being denied this and am in fear of even walking out into the streets in case I am seen by authorities.

For your information, I have enclosed a short video of a statement that I made on video recently with the help of my older brother who videotaped me. I have also enclosed a picture of me with my brothers and my dad I so that you can see for yourself who I am and who my family is. They are the ones who support me, not the people from the CAS or the courts.

A lot of my friends and friends of our family cannot believe what is happening to me and my family. They cannot believe that the authorities can abuse children and their families and get away with this. Is this what Justice in Canada is all about?

Can you help me? Can you help so that I can go back to my school without fear of harassment and apprehension by these York CAS workers? Can you get a lawyer to help me? Can you help assure that my rights and freedoms as a Canadian are being respected? Many of my friends at school are hoping that you will help me. If the Prime Minister of Canada can't see that children are guaranteed the right to feel safe and secure in Canada, then who is there that can?

I thank you for your time and ask for a speedy response because I am not attending school right now and need to get someone to help me before I am taken away to be punished by these CAS workers.

Yours truly

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Attachments: two letters to Premier McGuinty