

April 12, 2005.

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

Canadian Tire Corporation
2180 Yonge St.
Toronto, Ontario
L4S 2B9
Attn: The President and the Board of Directors

Dear Members of the Board of Directors

RE: The Canadian Tire Foundation for Families being misused to hurt children and families in the community

My name is [REDACTED] and I am 13 years of age. I live in Barrie, Ontario. I am currently in hiding from authorities and have been unable to attend school for six weeks now. I am unable to go to school because of my fear of the Children's Aid Society and what they have done to abuse me and my family up until now. The York Region CAS was the agency that started this horror story affecting my family. I feel that what is happening to me as a result of the Children's Aid Society should not be happening to me nor to any other child. I want to do what I can to change this and I am asking for the support of Canadian Tire to do this.

I have learned that your company is donating money through its "Foundation for Families" to the very CAS agency that is currently terrorizing me and my family as well as other families. I found this out because the name of Canadian Tire appears on the website for the York Region Children's Aid Society which is the CAS agency that has brought so much grief into my life and into the lives of my other family members.

I believe that your company has been misled by people with the CAS into helping promote the image of the CAS when in fact the CAS is doing much harm to children and families in the community. Money being donated by Canadian Tire to the Children's Aid Society through its Foundation for Families is being indirectly used to harm not only my family but other children and families in other communities as well.

I have attached a copy of my affidavit that I signed alone in front of a lawyer which covers only some of the abuses I have suffered at the hands of the CAS. Also with this letter, is a short DVD video disk containing a statement made by me and videotaped by my brother as well as a booklet containing articles about the harm done to families by CAS agencies. The workers with the CAS have threatened and coerced me and have tried to keep what they are doing to me covered up in order to fool people in the community.

To help in my campaign to get the CAS to stop abusing families, I am asking that Canadian Tire **IMMEDIATELY** stop all funding to the Children's Aid Society until such time that any CAS who receives money from your company can show that it has taken steps to improve transparency and accountability and to stop the abuse of power by its workers against families in the community.

The name of Canadian Tire is being used by the children's aid agencies to mislead members of the public into believing that the CAS is a respectable organization in the community. While there are likely some children in need of help from the CAS, unfortunately this need should not overshadow the harm that is being done to other children in the community by the CAS. If the CAS would direct the resources it is using to harm children to those children who really need help, then CAS would not likely need any money from Canadian Tire. There is no reason why the CAS cannot help children in need and at the same time ensure that it operates in a manner that will ensure that its workers do not abuse other children and families.

I would ask that your company stop all funds to the CAS immediately until such time as the CAS is willing to agree in writing to the following:

- 1) That all CAS workers permit all parents and children to record their meetings with workers and that a written directive from the executive director be given to all CAS workers to the effect that workers must give their consent to any child or parent who requests that meetings with CAS workers be recorded. (If workers are truthful then they should have no concern about recording)
- 2) That only workers who are licensed to work as social workers in the Province of Ontario be allowed to make any decisions which can adversely affect the relationship between a child and other members of the child's family. (Not like in my case where unlicensed workers took me from my family without a proper investigation)
- 3) That all CAS workers including CAS lawyers support the use of recording devices in the courtroom. (Again, if these people have nothing to hide, then they should have no concern about recording)
- 4) That parents be allowed to have family members and friends attend the court hearings without object by CAS workers or lawyers. (Currently CAS lawyers tries to keep family and friends out of the courtroom to ensure secrecy)
- 5) That anyone who the child wishes to attend court to provide support to the child be allowed to remain in the courtroom. (Currently, the CAS lawyers will generally force any supporter for the child out of the courtroom to ensure secrecy)

If the Children's Aid Society is such a honest and credible organization, then they should have no problem in giving Canadian Tire their reassurance in writing that they will provide written direction to have their workers abide by the simple things on the list above, especially in regards to allowing parents and children to record their meetings and court hearings involving CAS. If the CAS agencies are not willing to give this commitment to Canadian Tire to these simple things then I think that this says a lot about their real agenda. If the CAS does not agree to at least these conditions, then your company should **IMMEDIATELY** stop all funding, whether it

has been committed to the CAS or not. If the CAS is not willing to provide services in a transparent and accountable manner and demonstrate its respect to children and families in the community, then Canadian Tire should not honour any of its existing or future commitments to the CAS.

Your response would be appreciated. Currently, I am being hunted down like an animal. My father and my older teenage brothers are being treated like criminals. I just want to go home with my family and to be allowed to go back to school without these workers from CAS threatening and abusing me and my family and trying to force me to shut up.

If Canadian Tire is really committed to supporting children and families in the community then it should immediately stop any misuse of its funds. The Canadian Tire Foundations should be to help children and families in the community, not help to destroy them as in the case of my family. Pressure on the CAS from Canadian Tire, specifically the Board of Directors, can help cause the CAS to rethink what it is doing to destroy me and my family. Please use your corporate influence to bring justice to families in the community by taking the time to find out what the CAS is doing to me and to take real steps to stop this abuse. This is what being a good corporate citizen is all about.

I am willing to meet with any member of the Board of Directors so that you can see who I am and to question me about my situation. I can be contacted at my e-mail below. Maybe some of the members of your Board may be willing to tell the CAS to leave me and my family alone so that I can go back to school.

Your help to correct injustices in our community by the CAS would be appreciated. Immediately stopping all funding and insisting that CAS workers make themselves more accountable would be a good first step to make the CAS realise that it can no longer continue to mislead the public and companies such as Canadian Tire into believing that it is a respectable organization while it destroys children and families in secret.

Your response would be appreciated.

Yours truly

[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com

Enclosures

Affidavit of [REDACTED]
DVD statement of [REDACTED]

Book: The destruction of Families by Child Welfare Protection Agencies