

Mailing Address:

Room 646-S Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
wcasey@parl.gc.ca



House of Commons

William D. Casey
Cumberland Colchester Musquodoboit Valley

Telephone Numbers:

Ottawa Tel: (613) 992-3366
Ottawa Fax: (613) 992-7220
Anchorage Tel: (907) 667-2679
Trenton Tel: (907) 893-2155

March 16, 2009

The Honourable Hedy Fry, Chair
Standing Committee on the Status of Women
c/o Jacques Maziade
Clerk of the Committee
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Madame Chair,

I am writing to you on the behalf of two of my constituents, Linda MacDonald MEd, BN, RN and Jeanne Sarson MEd, BScN, RN. Both are human rights defenders based in my riding and are well known for their work on the behalf of women and children. As you will see by the attached letter, both were recently in touch with you in regards to appearing before the Standing Committee on the Status of Women.

As their Member of Parliament, I respectfully request that every consideration be given their request to appear before the Committee to discuss their efforts to have the Government of Canada introduce legislation to amend the *Canadian Criminal Code* to make non-state actor torture a crime. I think that the Chair and the Members of the Committee will be most interested in what these women have to share on this topic.

If it helps in your decision about these women, I recently rose in the House of Commons and presented a petition of well over seven hundred names calling for the Government to do just as Jeanne and Linda and hundreds of Canadians from Coast to Coast request. These women have also been to Geneva, Switzerland recently and have discussed their efforts with Canada's representatives to the United Nations and other important figures.

Again, I think it will be well worth the Committee's time to hear from Ms. MacDonald and Ms. Sarson and I hope you will contact me to discuss their work should there be any questions. I have worked with these women for years and am happy to vouch for them. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Casey".

Bill Casey, M.P.
Cumberland Colchester
Musquodoboit Valley

Attach (1)