



Canadian Federation of University Women
Fédération canadienne des femmes diplômées des universités

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January 13, 2012

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Prime Minister:

On behalf of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), I am writing to you further to the article that appeared in the November 16, 2011 edition of the Toronto Star entitled: "An Unlikely Target for Ottawa's Spying" written by Tim Harper.

The article reports that Dr. Cindy Blackstock, PhD, Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, has been routinely spied on by the federal government. It is stated that this surveillance has been undertaken further to her filing a human rights complaint about the underfunding of child welfare services to First Nation Children on reserves. This scrutiny has also been reported on by the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.

The CFUW is disturbed to read these reports and is concerned that such government surveillance of human rights advocates could be taking place. To this end, we urge that an independent investigation be undertaken by an impartial third party into the actions of the Departments of Justice and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

CFUW is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization of close to 10,000 women university graduates, students and Associate Members in 112 Clubs across Canada that works to improve the status of women and human rights, education, social justice, and peace. CFUW holds special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and belongs to the Education committee of the Canadian Sub-Commission to UNESCO. CFUW is the largest of the 61 affiliates of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

Sincerely,

Brenda Wallace

Brenda Wallace
CFUW National President

C.c: Michael Wernick, D.M., Dept. Of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
Dr. Cindy Blackstock