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**Programs and Services**

Counselling Services  
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One Woman One Vote Initiative  
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Education Centre

**Special Events**

Tribute to Women of  
Distinction Awards  
Week Without Violence



August 17, 2004

Right Honourable Paul Martin  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Office of the Prime Minister,  
80 Wellington Street,  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2  
[martin.p@parl.gc.ca](mailto:martin.p@parl.gc.ca) and [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

Dear Mr. Martin:

We are writing to you on behalf of many Canadians who find women's under-representation in the recent federal election, including fewer appointments of women to Cabinet, extremely unacceptable. Our concern of over this chronic under-representation has increased with the fact that there currently remain only two female Supreme Court Judges. In particular, we want to see two additional qualified women, whose work supports women's equality, appointed as puisne judges to the Supreme Court of Canada to bring the total to four female justices of the nine justices.

We believe that equity and equality for women require that women's perspectives help shape society's direction. We need fair representation of both genders in the interpretation of the Charter of Rights if the Supreme Court of Canada is to serve all Canadians, of which women are 52% of the population.

Canadian research that began with the Royal Commission on the Status of Women shows the general trend that women have been appointed to Cabinet, the Senate, government boards and positions in proportion to their success in getting elected at the federal level. Of the 10 new recruits you chose for cabinet, not one is a woman. We do not wish to see history repeat itself with these upcoming Court appointments. We urge you to choose two qualified women to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Sincerely,

Paula Hayduk  
Interim Executive Director  
YWCA of Edmonton  
(780) 423-9922

Janet Buckmaster  
Coordinator, One Woman One Vote  
YWCA of Edmonton  
(780) 423-9922, ext. 504

c.c. Honorable Irwin Cotler,  
Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada,  
284 Wellington Street,  
Ottawa ON K1A 0H8  
[webadmin@justice.gc.ca](mailto:webadmin@justice.gc.ca)

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