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KATAUJAO SOCIETY
Rankin Inlet, Northwest Territories
XOC OGO

August 13, 1990

Mr. Peter Ernerk
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Aivilik Riding
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.
XOC OGO

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Dear Mr. Ernerk;

JUDGE DE WEERDT

I am a resident of the Northwest Territories and I writing to express my concern over the comments made by Judge de Weerd in the recent Oakly case which came before the Supreme Court in Yellowknife.

Spousal assault is a very serious issue and if the Government is serious about putting an end to it, judges who condone the violence must be reprimanded, suspended or relieved of their responsibility.

I demand that an inquiry be called into Justice de Weerd's comments in this case and into his treatment of women as victims of violence in previous cases over which he has presided.

The problem lies not only with one judge, but can be seen throughtout the criminal justice system. A public inquiry, allowing women the opportunity to express their abuse by the criminal justice system must be called. It is time that these victims stop being swept under the carpet and are given the respect they deserve as human beings. Their suffering at the hands of their abusers and the justice system is not trivial.

I urge you to take action. We have appreciated your support in your struggle against family violence in the past, Peter, and we urge you to continue.

Sincerely yours,

Marius P. Tungilik
President

Crown to appeal T-shirt assault case

The Crown will appeal the case of a man who assaulted his wife when she refused to take off a T-shirt.

Donald Wayne Oakley, 43, was convicted of common assault June 29 and fined \$1,000. Supreme Court Justice Mark de Weerdts acquitted Oakley of a second assault charge.

Senior Crown counsel Don Avison says an appeal notice has been filed with the court. No hearing date has been set.

Oakley kicked his wife with cowboy boots after she insisted on wearing a T-shirt he found offensive to a party last May. The shirt depicts three polar bears in sexual positions.

Oakley is a former Yellowknife Correctional Centre guard. He has moved to British Columbia since being charged. The victim has also left town.

De Weerdts's statement that Oakley had been provoked into the assault because his wife wore the shirt has produced a flurry of letters to the editor protesting the decision.