



**Ottawa Coalition to End  
Violence Against Women**

**Coalition d'Ottawa contre la  
violence faite aux femmes**

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February 17, 2009

Josie Geuer – Program Director

Re: OCTEVAW supports your decision to discontinue Chris Brown's music and invites the station to participate in our public education forum for young men this fall

To Ms. Geuer,

The Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW) is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to ending violence against women and, through leadership, education, advocacy and political action, to promoting a coordinated response to women and their children who have experienced abuse.

We would like to put forth our support of your decision to stop playing Chris Brown's music on air. This decision comes as a response to the allegations that Mr. Brown uttered criminal threats and physically assaulted his girlfriend Rihanna.

Violence against women is a serious issue that affects us all, especially your main female listener demographic. Young women between the ages of 15 and 24 are at greater risk of sexual assault than women at any other age (General Social Survey on Criminal Victimization, Stats Can, 2004). By not playing Chris Brown's music, Hot 89.9 is taking a proactive stance that woman abuse will not be tolerated. This results in positive public engagement and awareness about the issue.

It is everyone's responsibility to maintain a safe community and a space where issues of violence can be discussed openly and without shame. It is also the responsibility of leaders in our community, like Hot 89.9, to take a stand against woman abuse.

In early October 2009, OCTEVAW, along with the Sexual Assault Network, will be organizing a two-day forum on a public education campaign that engages young men. Michael Kaufman, the co-founder of the White Ribbon Campaign, has been invited to present "Man Talk," his new resource on healthy relationships currently tailored for universities and colleges. We would like to take this opportunity to invite Hot 89.9 to participate in this city-wide forum and contribute to the discussion and prevention work.

I can be reached at any time at 613-725-3601 x105. We look forward to collaborating with you on this new initiative.

Sincerely,

Erin Williams

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