



**Ottawa Coalition to End
Violence Against Women**

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

Letter to the Editor

January 9, 2008

Re: OCTEVAW thanks Dawn Moore for her article today

The Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW), founded in 1985 would like to thank Dawn Moore for her article, "*The streets are safer, homes are not,*" published in today's paper.

As a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to ending violence against women, we would like to echo that while the streets remain unsafe for many sectors of women, a woman's home is the most dangerous place of all. Challenging the myth that violence happens predominantly in public by strangers is extremely important. In fact, the majority of sexual assaults are committed by a man known to the woman; two-thirds of sexual assaults occur in private homes; and in Canada four out of five people murdered by their spouses are women.

Moore speaks to a list of murdered women and children which is growing longer. OCTEVAW holds an even longer list, and even that is unable to capture all of the victimization and terror. This is unacceptable.

Violence against women is a pervasive issue world wide, and more specifically in our own community and no one person, agency or sector can address this issue alone. As a community, we believe that we can work together to end this pervasive form of violence experienced in the lives of colleagues, friends, family members, neighbors, and other women we come into contact with. Violence against women can and must be stopped and it is the responsibility of everyone.

OCTEVAW, through leadership, education, advocacy and political action, is dedicated to promoting a coordinated response to women and their children who have experienced abuse. We invite community members to contact us regarding further information on how they can join and support us in ending violence against women.

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