

May 10, 2010

John McGetrick and David Pepper  
Ottawa Police Service  
474 Elgin St.  
Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 2J6

Re: Ottawa Police Service (OPS) 2010-2012 Business Plan Follow-Up

Dear John and David,

OCTEVAW members attended various “Let’s Chat” sessions organized by OPS last fall to have input into your business planning process.

We had three solid recommendations:

1. Include **women** in the vulnerable groups section on p.3 - #2.2
2. Separate **youth violence** from **domestic violence** on p.7 - #3.0
3. Include **sexual violence** on p.7 - #3.0

Firstly, we would like to officially thank OPS for including **women** as a vulnerable group. This is an important step in acknowledging that women are at more risk due to gender inequalities.

Secondly, we would like to express our disappointment that **sexual violence** was not added to the list of priority policing issues which includes youth and domestic violence. Sexual violence is a pervasive problem in our city as police and community statistics indicate. Omitting this crime is problematic as it reinforces the fact that sexual assault receives little accurate policy or public attention. Showing a commitment to “mobilize communities” around sexual violence lends itself to increasing public trust and police reporting of this crime.

OCTEVAW’s Justice Committee is following this issue and they have requested a follow-up as to why **sexual violence** was not clearly included in your business plan. We thank John for sending our initial request to the department responsible for the plan and hope that we can be provided with an explanation and more information.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. I can be contacted at any time to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Erin Williams, Executive Director  
on behalf of Justice Standing Committee of OCTEVAW