

Mr. Guy Lavigne
796 Edmond St, Hawkesbury, Ontario K6A 3C1

April 17, 2003.

OPP Hawkesbury detachment
419 Cartier Boulevard
Hawkesbury, Ontario
K6A 1V9
Tel: 1-613-632-2729
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Attn: Inspector Jeffrey Dupuis

Dear Inspector Dupuis

Re: 1) Assaults on myself and my step children; 2) Failure of CAS and OCL workers to investigate and report child abuse

In response to incidents of domestic violence and assaults that have been committed against myself and my step children and the exposure of domestic violence to my younger children by their mother, Bonnie McCaskill, I would like to formally request that the police undertake the following:

- 1) That an investigation commence and charges be laid under the Criminal Code of Canada against my former common-law partner, Bonnie McCaskill for assaulting me during the school March break in the year 2000.
- 2) That an investigation commence and charges be laid under the Criminal Code against my former common-law partner, Bonnie McCaskill for assault against her son, Stephen Patel, DOB - Oct 27, 1989.
- 3) That an investigation commence and charges be laid under the Criminal Code against my former common-law partner, Bonnie McCaskill for assault against Alexandra McCaskill, her daughter, Alexandra McCaskill, DOB Dec. 10, 1991.
- 4) That an investigation be commenced and charges be laid under the Criminal Code of Canada for perjury as a result of statements made to the police by videotape in which false statements were made by Ms. McCaskill to police in relation to allegations of domestic violence against myself by Ms. McCaskill.
- 5) That an investigation be commenced and that charges be laid under the Criminal Code of Canada be laid against my former common-law partner, Bonnie McCaskill for uttering death threats against her daughter, Alexandra McCaskill, DOB Dec. 10, 1991.
- 6) That an immediate investigation commence against the Children's Aid Society and the Ontario Office of the Children's Lawyer for failure to report assaults on the children and that charges be laid for failure to report as they are required to do under Section 72 of the Child and Family Services Act. The worker with the Office of the Children's Lawyer and the worker with the Children's Aid Society have failed to report abuse as required under law.

I did not contact the police at the time of the offenses because at the time I did not feel it was the honourable thing to do for a man to call police on his spouse. Whenever my partner, Ms. McCaskill was violent or abusive during the times we lived together, I often tried to de-escalate the situation by voluntarily leaving the house to escape her violence and abuse. Even after Ms. McCaskill and I separated, I did not pursue charges because I was told by many, including several lawyers, that because of the bias in the justice system in favour of women that it is impossible to have women charged with domestic violence and/or child abuse unless the woman has caused very serious injuries to the victim. Even though the children were complaining of abuse by their mother, I felt powerless to help them after being told by so many, including lawyers, that women are almost immune from prosecution in the court system.

It would appear that what I was told correct, because even though the children reported to the Children's Aid Society and to the Office of the Children's Lawyer that they were being physically and emotionally abused, these agencies refused to do anything. In fact, they did not even mention in their report having spoke to the children. The Children's Aid Society and the Ontario Office of the Children's Lawyer have miserably failed to protect my children and in if anything, the actions of these agencies has helped the mother to conceal her physical and emotional abuse on the children.

Since our separation, Ms. McCaskill has continued her reign of terror over the children by physically and emotionally abusing them. Children's Aid have done nothing even though the abuse was reported to their worker. Evidence overwhelmingly shows that the mother, Bonnie McCaskill, has an anger management problem which is adversely affecting the children. I have recently tried to get her to obtain counselling through my lawyer but she has refused. It is my feeling now that unless this serious problem of abusing the children is addressed through the justice system, that further physical and emotional harm may come to the children. I now am of the opinion that it would be in the best interest of the children, including their safety, that the matter of the mother's violence against the children and myself be brought out into the open and that charges be brought against the mother at this time. The children have been unable to get help from authorities and the mother continues to ignore her problem, so criminal charges are the only way to deal with the problem now.

I have been told by others, that if I stand by and do nothing to protect the children then I am not setting a good example as a parent for my children. Ms. McCaskill's two older children from a previous relationship, Ali and Stephen have both said on videotape that the authorities should do something to their mother for what she has done to them and continues to do today. I have included their videotaped testimony as part of the package sent to you.

Testimony from one of Ms. McCaskill's children from a previous relationship, Ali, would seem to indicate that more than one assault of the children was committed by the mother and reported to the CAS, yet it appears that nothing was done to address these issues by these agencies.

Because of being told by lawyers that police will discount my request to have the mother charged, I have gone to great lengths to research and to gather relevant information prior to making this complaint. The process has taken a lot of time. Because police did not interview the children in the past, even when it was disclosed to the police that the children had witnessed a crime, I had to take the steps of having the children interviewed and videotaped by an outside third party agency that deals in child custody matters in order to make a record of evidence from the children that police to date have not obtained, but should have.

After gathering information together, I believe that is more than enough reasonable evidence to support the claims I have made in regards to the assaults against myself and the children. I believe that police have a duty, in light of the evidence to lay charges. I believe that charges are necessary to bring this matter out into the open and to ensure that justice is served for myself and for the children affected. I feel that the mother needs to be placed into an anger management course and to take counselling to help address her violent and abusive behaviour with the children.

Even the children feel that something should be done to the mother. Part of the evidence I have included with this letter includes a videotape of two of the children, Stephen and Ali McCaskill. When you review the tapes you will see that both children say that what their mother has done to them is not right and that she must face consequences for her actions. Even the children find it hard to believe that their mother can abuse them while police and other authorities stand idly by and do nothing to help them.

Background to incidents of assault, threatening and perjury I have provided below:

Assault against myself

On many occasions throughout our relationship, my common-law partner, Ms. McCasKill, physically assaulted me. Rather than complicate a police investigation with many incidents in which I was assaulted, to keep the police investigation simple, I am requesting that the police lay charges for only this one incident. Although there were a number of incidents throughout our marriage, both the children and my father were present at this incident and can provide evidence in support. In addition, Ali McCaskill clearly makes mention of this incident during her videotaped interview. I have provided a written statement to this incidence with this letter. My father who was also present while I was being assaulted by Ms. McCaskill will also be providing you with a written statement.

Assault against Stephen McKaskill

I have attached two video tapes, taken by an independent third party agency in which two of the children were interviewed in private. The videotape of Ali discloses that she witnessed her mother hit Stephen over the head with an object, specifically a lunch box and that she was angry at the time. Also attached is an affidavit from Susan Jaring, in which she states that she also witnessed this assault as well as other incidents where Ms. McCaskill was physically abusing the children. It would appear that there are two witnesses to this assault on a child by the mother.

Assault against Alexander McCaskill (Ali)

The assaults on Ali, I find most bothersome. Ali clearly disclosed on the videotape of being thrown up against a wall, slapped and threatened with death. This is clearly an assault on a child. What is also disturbing is that Ali indicated that she told the CAS worker about this but that the CAS worker told her that this was OK.

Since the videotape was taken, Ali has run away from her mother's home and is now living with her father and paternal grandparents. She was so abused and traumatized by her mother that to this day she has refused to return to her mother's home. Neither the police, children's Aid or the Office of the Children's Lawyer helped this girl when she was being abused by her mother. Failing to get support from authorities, this young girl was forced to take the law into her own hands and to run

away from her mother to seek refuge at her father's home. I find it appalling that children cannot depend on local authorities to protect them.

Failure of the CAS to take action for assaults on the children.

I would ask that police investigate the local children's aid agency, Prescott Russell Services to Children and Adults, out of Plantagenet, Ontario, and to find out why the worker with the CAS did not report the assault on Ali to police or at the very least take some sort of action to stop the mother's abuse of the children. Ali McCaskill clearly indicates in her videotape interview that she told the CAS worker about being physically assaulted and abused, yet, to date, the CAS has done nothing. I wrote a letter to the CAS months ago but they have not even responded. The CAS's actions to date are shocking and totally unacceptable. As the children reported on videotape, they feel that the CAS are on the mother's side. It would appear that being on the side of mothers means helping mothers to downplay and conceal physical assaults on children. Why do authorities permit children to be assaulted, yet under the same allegations arrest an adult? It just does not make sense.

For your information, I have enclosed a CD called "The destruction of Children and Family's by Child Protection Agencies Exposed!" which should open your eyes about how CAS agencies are really performing when it comes to protecting children. The information on this CD shows that the CAS have a dismal record when it comes to protecting many children in this province. There is also a 12 minute video segment called "presumed guilty" which shows the kind of shoddy work that some CAS agencies are doing. I would encourage you to share this with officers on your force so that they will learn the other side about the CAS.

Failure of the Office of the Children's Lawyer to report abuse

I would ask that police investigate the Office of the Children's lawyer and to find out why the worker with the Office of the Children's Lawyer did not report the abuse to the CAS. Ali McCasKill clearly indicates in her videotape interview that she told the Office of the Children's Lawyer about being abused, yet, nothing is even mentioned in the workers report. In fact, the worker with the Office of the Children's Lawyer did not even report that he had met with Ali. The worker's report should have at the very least, indicated that he met with Ali.

I find it shocking and unacceptable that to date, authorities have been unable to uncover the abuse of these children. In order for this matter to be properly investigated so that the these agencies will not attempt to cover up their wrongdoings, I feel that the police should:

- 1) Obtain a warrant to immediately apprehend records with the Children's Aid and Office of the Children's Lawyer without prior notice so that records cannot be altered prior to police having true copies of the documents in their possession.
- 2) That the OCL worker be questioned as to why she did not report to the CAS, the assaults that Ali disclosed to her.
- 3) That the CAS worker be questioned as to why some sort of action was not taken by the agency in response to the assault by the mother that were reported to the worker by the child.
- 4) That the children be interviewed and interviews videotaped by police to make a record of their statements and that questions be prepared for the children which will help police determine the following:

- a) if the children have witnessed their mother physically assault myself or the children themselves.
 - b) if their mother has ever threatened to move the children away so that they would not be able to tell others about being abused.
 - c) if they have they ever been left alone in their mother's home late at night.
 - d) whether the mother has told the children to remain silent about the abuse and neglect in the home.
- 5) That Susan Jaring be interviewed by police regarding abuse of the children that she may have witnessed while Ms. McCaskill and the children were living with her.

Equal Justice

I have gone to great lengths to provide police with as much credible evidence as possible to help in an investigation because of being told by so many, including some lawyers, that police will do nothing to help me and the children. I have heard that some lawyer have said that Justice for men in the province of Ontario is nothing but a joke.

I would like to mention that the Hawkesbury OPP had no hesitation in arresting me on Tuesday, October 23rd, 2001, based strictly on the words of Ms. McCaskill with no supporting evidence other than her own statements. Charges have been dangling over my head for a year and a half and in the whole process, the police did not even interview the children, even though in the mother's statement to police, she claimed that they were witnesses. In my opinion, the police failed to investigate the mother's allegations and failed to interview key witnesses.

I have reasonable evidence to support my allegations and I would now ask that my complaints of assault be dealt with in an equal manner by police and that the mother be charged with assault, just as I was charged. I want equal justice and the children, as well, expect no less. In addition to my testimony, I have included third party evidence, including information from the children which would support not only my claims of assault against myself, but assaults against the children by Ms. McCaskill.

When Ms. McCaskill made allegations against me, the O.P.P. had no hesitation in arresting me and applying Ontario's draconian Zero Tolerance domestic violence policies against me. Now that I have provided my testimony and have it backed up with reasonable evidence, I now expect the O.P.P. to apply the same Zero Tolerance policies against my former spouse. My family members and many of my friends in this community are watching closely to see if our justice system in this part of the Province really does provide equal service to both men and women.

Children's expectations for justice and response by police

I would also like to bring to your attention comments made by the children themselves about what they feel should be done in the name of justice. Both Stephen and Ali mentioned in their video taped interviews that they feel that what the physical and emotional abuse they were subjected to by their mother was not right. Both children said on videotape that that their mother should be made to suffer some kind of consequence for the harm she has done to other members of the family. In fact, Ali in her interview mentions that the police are stupid if they do not do something. I would draw your attention to minute 41:55 of Ali's tape where she talks about the police and what should be

done about her mother's abuse. On Stephen's videotape he also talks about that the mother should have some sort of consequences for what she has done.

Police Education

Based on my own experience with police, conversations with legal professionals, and others in the community, there appears to be a great lack of understanding about violence by women against men and the use of false allegations by women in custody disputes. It seems that many police officers and those associated with the court system believe that only men perpetrate domestic violence. It would appear that many in the police forces who deal with domestic violence need some further education in this area.

For your information I have attached a copy of a document called "**References examining assaults by women on their spouses or male partners: An annotated bibliography**" by Martin S. Fiebert, Department of Psychology California State University. I would suggest that you review this information and share this information with your officers who deal with domestic violence. This bibliography shows that woman can be just as prone to violence as men. Statistics Canada also reports that the incidence of spousal assaults is about equal for men and women. I have heard that police officers who have attended the police college in Aylmer, Ontario have reported that the training they receive is highly biased and slanted in favour of women and paints men as perpetrators of domestic violence.

For your additional information, I have included a copy of a CD called "Violence and Abuse by Women Exposed" and a professional video called "Also at Risk". A third video called "The Untold Story and Gender Politics behind the Ralph and Gillian Hadley murder-suicide inquiry should also bring some awareness of how the Province's Zero-Tolerance policies are literally destroying families and causing parents to murder each other. I would suggest you review these materials and also allow the police officers on your force review these materials as well so that they can get look at the other side of the issue about violence by women against children and fathers. I wonder how many of your officers are aware that the vast majority of abuse and neglect of children is committed by their mothers and that children are safest in the care of their biological fathers. For your information I have also enclosed a copy of a report from the Canadian Family Forum, dated March 14, 2000 which gives some statistics showing that children are safest in the care of their biological fathers and a report from Simon Frazer University. Many other published reports reflect similar findings.

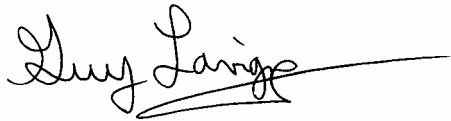
In the name of equality and justice, the police should charge Ms. McCaskill for her crimes against her children and other members of her family. She has managed to assault and abuse members of her family for too long now while authorities seem to stand by and do nothing. What kind of message are we sending our children when CAS, Office of the Children's Lawyer and the police, fail to properly investigate the abuse of the children and turn a blind eye to these crimes. When lawyers themselves start speaking about bias against fathers in the system to the point where abuse of children is being ignored, we have a problem.

I feel that if police do not charge Ms. McCaskill in light of the evidence I have provided to police that this would send a strong message to the children and to my family and friends in this community, that there is no real justice in our community and that mothers who abuse children and break the law are immune from prosecution and that fathers are the only ones who get charged and prosecuted. If charges are not laid against the mother and if the involvement of the CAS and the

Office of the Children's Lawyer is not properly investigated, then I can only believe that what several lawyers told me was true and that there really is no justice for fathers and children in Ontario. I hope that members of the OPP have the courage to do what is right and just and to ensure that children are protected from abusive parents, whether they be mothers or fathers and that equal justice for men and women prevails.

Your response in writing would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guy Lavigne". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Guy Lavigne

Enclosures:

- 1) My written statement of April 17, 2003 - based on assault against me by Ms. McCaskill.
- 2) Videotape testimony of Ali McCaskill regarding violence and abuse by mother recorded Jan. 25, 2003 by an independent agency conducted in private with the child.
- 3) Analysis and comments of Ali McCaskill's videotaped interview
- 4) Videotape testimony of Stephen McCaskill regarding violence and abuse by mother recorded Jan. 25, 2003 by an independent agency conducted in private with the child.
- 5) Affidavit of Susan Jaring testifying to physical and emotional abuse of the children by the mother.
- 6) CD "violence and abuse by women exposed"
- 7) CD "The destruction of Children and Families by Child Protection Agencies Exposed!"
- 8) Copy of Canadian Family Forum dated April 14, 2000 regarding children being safest in care of their fathers.
- 9) Copy of document, "**References examining assaults by women on their spouses or male partners: An annotated bibliography**" by Martin S. Fiebert, Department of Psychology California State University which shows that woman are just as violent as men.
- 10) Copy of a news bulletin (July 29, 1999, Volume 15, No. 8) from Simon Fraser University which shows spousal abuse rates about equal between men and women.
- 11) Videotape TV documentary "Presumed Guilty" from the CTV network.
- 12) Videotape "Untold Story and the Gender Politics behind the Ralph and Gillian Hadley Murder Suicide Inquiry", 62 minutes, released in Nov 2002.

cc: Attorney General of Ontario
Solicitor General of Ontario
Various members of provincial parliament
Various members of federal parliament
Various members of the senate
Various members of the media