



*“Dedicated to Justice” • «Au service de la justice»*

May 20, 2009

Mr. Don Head, Commissioner  
Correctional Service of Canada  
340 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0P9  
Fax: 613-943-1630

Dear Commissioner:

The Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime is writing to you to respectfully request that you overturn the decision of Pittsburgh warden Lynne VanDalen to prevent Mr. Jeremy Mead into the institution for the upcoming parole hearing of his mother's stalker, rapist and killer, Richard Raymond Babinski. I trust that you have seen the considerable amount of media coverage on this issue in recent days.

Jeremy sincerely regrets the use of inappropriate language in the first victim impact statement he wrote. He has since prepared a new statement to read at the hearing. Surely, you must empathize with the level of trauma that this man suffered as a very young boy. When Jeremy first heard his mother's killer was permitted day passes for cultural events, he was consumed by rage and for the first time, expressed his feelings in writing.

Rest assured that Jeremy will not disrupt the proceedings in any manner. His grandmother will accompany him to the hearing, as well as myself and support staff from my office. He has even offered to be handcuffed and shackled at the hearing to ease the warden's concerns.

It is highly unfair that the warden's focus is on the safety of the institution, employees and inmates rather than the need of the victim to be there in person to represent his mother. It is also inappropriate for VanDalen to suggest that, "Until such time as Mr. Mead seeks assistance for dealing with his emotions and grief, my decision will not be revisited." She is in no position to judge this victim, his level of suffering or ability to cope.

Jeremy Mead had just turned 7 when his mother, Eva Marie Mead, was raped, strangled and abandoned in the woods by Raymond Babinski who was already facing charges of sexually assaulting her weeks earlier. This stalker, rapist and killer is now going before the parole board for a second chance in life, yet the victim's son is being excluded from the hearing for expressing his completely natural emotional reaction. To quote Jeremy's grandmother, "It was the offender who caused this reaction."

I would remind you that the Windsor police interviewed Jeremy Mead in regards to his statement and they are supportive of his attendance at the hearing. They do not feel he would be a threat. They determined that he was not going to act out on his impact statement, that he shows no sense of follow-through, and that he was simply venting his rage and pain over his mother's horrific murder.

**CANADIAN RESOURCE  
CENTRE FOR VICTIMS  
OF CRIME**



**CENTRE CANADIEN DE  
RESSOURCES POUR LES  
VICTIMES DE CRIMES**

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Please reverse the warden’s decision so that Jeremy Mead can enter the institution to attend the parole hearing of Raymond Babinski on May 27<sup>th</sup>. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Illingworth', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Heidi Illingworth  
Executive Director

Cc Mr. Steve Sullivan, Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime  
Mr. Marion Dion, Chairperson, National Parole Board