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June 10, 2008

Mr. Gilles Côté, Acting Warden
CSC – Montée St-François Institution
600 montée St-François
Laval (Québec) H7C 1S5

Dear Mr. Côté,

We are writing to again express our opposition to the Escorted Temporary Absences you continue to grant to murderer **Zachary FINLEY**. We feel he has essentially received day parole without facing the questioning of the National Parole Board and without proving he does not pose a risk to society.

Along with the family of the victim, the CRCVC is concerned with the increasing privileges given to this remorseless killer. It began as a single release on Feb 14th and then the victims were informed of further releases on April 16th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 28th and 30th from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm. In May this was further expanded so that Finley was gone from the institution all day May 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 14th, 21st, 23rd, 26th, 30th and 31st. For June, he has been approved for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 9th, 10th, 13th, 16th, 20th, 25th and 27th. Why, on June 10th, is this offender permitted an all day trip to Montreal and does not have to return to the institution until 10 pm?

These releases are offensive to the family who feels it is a total abuse of the process. When will it end? Our belief is that these passes will continue in order to make the offender "look good" until he decides he is ready to face the National Parole Board for the first time. Given that this offender has frivolously withdrawn his application to appear before the board eleven times now, we don't know when this might occur. Why is this clear manipulation of the system allowed to continue?

We demand openness and accountability from the Service and ask that these passes cease until such time they are granted in a public forum by the National Parole Board based on proper risk assessments.

Yours truly,

Heidi Illingworth
Executive Director

Cc The Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety
Mr. Keith Coulter, Commissioner, Correctional Service of Canada
Mr. Mario Dion, Chairperson, National Parole Board
Mr. Steve Sullivan, Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime
Mrs. Rosalie Turcotte
M. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu, président, AFPAD