

Following are some of the 58 recommendations of a jury that heard evidence during the inquest into the murder of Gillian Hadley by her estranged husband, Ralph, on June 20, 2000. Visit www.owin.org for more information about this inquest and other violence against women and children issues.

Hadley Inquest Jury Recommendations February 20, 2002

Opening Statement

We the jury offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of Gillian and Ralph Hadley and our admiration to those neighbours who came to help. Despite the tragic end to the situation, we thank you.

The deaths of Gillian and Ralph will have a particularly distressing effect on their children and the additional publicity generated by this inquest will add to their grief. We are confident that the implementation of our recommendations will more than compensate for this distress by preventing similar tragedies in the future.

Domestic Violence is a crime that is different from other crimes in two ways:

- The likelihood of repeat violence is common and at most times predictable,
- The victim is known in advance.

With this knowledge society has an opportunity to use its expertise, resources and updated technologies to prevent this type of crime with the ultimate goal of a safer environment and the saving of lives.

This jury hopes that our recommendations will help achieve these goals.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. We recommend that an implementation committee be established by the Government of Ontario, consisting of government and non-government representatives, to oversee the implementation of the recommendations in the inquest into the deaths of Gillian Hadley and Ralph Hadley, the inquest into the deaths of Arlene May and Randy Iles, and the recommendations arising out of the report by the Joint Committee on Domestic Violence to the Attorney General of Ontario entitled "Working Toward a Seamless Community and Justice Response to Domestic Violence: a Five Year Plan in Ontario".

- We also recommend that half the Implementation Committee be chosen from community-based women's and children's advocates and survivors of violence, as well as community-based representatives with expertise on issues of domestic violence, who are representatives of diverse communities in Ontario; and that OAITH, the John Howard Society and representatives of the subsidized housing sector be included in this group.

- And further, that the work of the Implementation Committee be funded and not time limited, and that it continue until the Committee is satisfied that all recommendations have been implemented across the province.

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES FOR WOMEN

37. We recommend that there be a program of government funded independent trained advocates for abused women, both inside and outside of the criminal justice system.

38. We recommend that the Government of Ontario, through its various ministries but in particular the Ministry of Community and Social Services, ensure that all community-based women's anti-violence services, including shelters, are appropriately funded.

40. We recommend that the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH) and Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Community and Social Services develop a specific response within child protection services across the province to child welfare reports and cases in which child exposure to domestic violence has been identified; and further:

41. That the Ministry of Community and Social Services ensure that appropriate and adequate funding is allocated to both the violence against women sector and the child welfare sector for training, implementation and ongoing operation of the specific response in cases of domestic violence.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS

46. We recommend that the Ontario Women's Directorate continue to work with community organizations and experts in the field of domestic violence to identify and promote public education messages and initiatives that would best improve public understanding of issues relating to women's safety.

47. We recommend that the Government of Ontario, in collaboration with frontline women's and children's advocates in the field of women's shelters, fund the development of a public education campaign with the goal of making both the public and abused women aware of the children's programs and supports within women's shelters across Ontario to allay the fears of women who delay or decline using women's emergency shelters.

RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

55. We recommend that the Ministry of Attorney General commission and underwrite research to study the effects of the initiative associated with the domestic violence specialized courts to ascertain whether they assist in reducing domestic violence. The results of the studies and analysis should be made available to the public.

56. We recommend that the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of the Attorney General develop and support approved ongoing research analyzing the effectiveness of domestic violence risk assessment tools and treatment.