

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Peel Institute on Violence Prevention: Public Statement Regarding the Ghomeshi Case**

Mississauga, Ontario – May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

It is certain that the controversial case of Jian Ghomeshi has caused an uproar in society. This piece is not intended to defend him, nor blame him. Rather than discussing the accused, we are speaking to and about women in our society as well as the prevalent inequities affecting women in our society.

Aside from the fact that Canadian law requires concrete evidence to convict, injustice goes beyond the legal system. There is no doubt that the legal system fails women, although the services available to women are in and of themselves failing women too. If agencies that provide services fail to work together effectively, then, as a whole, our *society* is failing women.

The government of Canada has spent millions of dollars to pursue a whole range of strategies to deal with violence against women. However, the issue of violence continues, indicating that government, without meaningful community participation, cannot stop violence against women on its own.

Institutions such as Health, Education, and Social Services do not adequately provide the necessary support and resources desperately needed by women with lived experience of violence. Women survivors of violence remain in powerless positions because services are not accessible and coordinated.

Peel Institute on Violence Prevention has conducted a study on how services in Peel Region are organized to serve women survivors of violence. The results of the study reveal a lack of communication and coordination among service providers. Failure to provide coordinated and effective care to women via services in the community is very costly, both in terms of human suffering and financial burden to society.

Improved collaboration among agencies is urgently required to support women victims of violence. If agencies do not share and communicate information, the suffering of the victims is prolonged. Victims are unfairly obliged to repeatedly relate the unfortunate details of their experience whenever they are referred to a different service provider.

The work of the Peel Institute on Violence Prevention has a holistic approach; working to prevent violence, evaluating the impact and effectiveness of agency services, adapting services and programs to be more focused on survivors' needs, and improving the coordination of services for all victims of violence including men, women, youth, seniors, aboriginals and people with disabilities. The goal is to remove the barriers affecting vulnerable populations and to give a voice to those that are silenced.

Family Services of Peel

[www.fspeel.org](http://www.fspeel.org)

151 City Centre Drive, Suite 501

Mississauga, Ontario

L5B 1M7

###