



Honourable Suzanne Anton  
 Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
 PO Box 9044 STN PROV GOVT  
 Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2  
 Via facsimile: 250-387-6411

January 30, 2015

Dear Attorney General:

**OPEN LETTER: Coalition supports family seeking justice for the murder of Stephanie Lane by Robert Pickton and calls for investigation into RCMP and Coroner “oversight” of her partial skeletal remains**

We are writing to convey our united and resolute support for the family of Stephanie Lane, who seek justice for her murder in light of their recent learning of “overlooked” critical evidence held by the RCMP, and then the Coroner.

Stephanie Lane went missing on January 11, 1997. In 2003, her DNA was found on Robert Pickton’s farm, but her family was told that there was not enough DNA to charge Pickton with her murder. Pickton was convicted in December 2007 of the murder of six women. First-degree murder charges related to the deaths of 20 more women were stayed in August 2010. Police also found the DNA of six more women on Pickton’s farm, including Stephanie Lane, where no charges were ever laid.

11 years later, in August 2014, Stephanie Lane’s family was notified by Victims Services that there was a change to her file, but the family did not receive details until September 2014. At a meeting with the Coroner, the family was told that in an “oversight,” partial skeletal remains of Stephanie Lane were placed in RCMP storage until 2010 when they were transferred to storage facilities of the BC Coroners’ office. The bones belonging to Stephanie Lane were overlooked and forgotten about in a storage locker.

The quantity of remains that had been overlooked was large enough to be among the top six amounts of evidence identified from any of the victims whose remains were found on Pickton's farm, and indicates that Robert Pickton should have been charged with, and tried, for her murder. There was no formal apology from the Coroner, RCMP, or the Province about the "oversight." Without any support or follow-up from the Coroners' office, Stephanie Lane's remains were returned to her family with an explanation of what had happened.

On the morning of January 28, 2015, the family held a press conference in Vancouver, asking that the Coroner re-examine the remains and confirm the identity of the victim, and upon confirmation and in light of this evidence, that Robert Pickton to be formally charged and tried for Stephanie Lane's murder. In the afternoon of January 28, 2015, the BC Coroners Service issued a statement emphasizing that the remains do not represent new evidence, and that the remains returned to Stephanie Lane's family were fully known and identified as part of the original police investigation.

If in fact, as stated by the Coroner, these remains were fully known and identified as part of the ongoing investigation, how did neither the Crown nor counsel for the families know? Why did the status of evidence on Stephanie Lane stay as RCMP having only found DNA? Was this evidence that the RCMP and Coroner forgot? We stress that the family of Stephanie Lane cannot be denied justice because of this appalling "oversight."

We seek your prompt response on the following:

1. If the remains returned recently to the family were fully known and identified in the original police investigation, why wasn't Robert Pickton charged with and tried for the murder of Stephanie Lane?
2. What action is the Attorney General taking to rectify this gross error and misconduct of justice?
3. We call for an investigation that would review how this "oversight" occurred and what actions will be taken to address this.
4. We call for a review into how the family was treated when brought into the Coroners office in September 2014- no victim services support, no counselling, no follow-up.
5. We ask that the Coroner re-examine the remains and confirm their identity as Stephanie Lane.
6. We support the family in asking that Robert Pickton be formally charged and tried for the murder of Stephanie Lane, if the recently returned partial skeletal remains are confirmed to belong to her.

Given the extreme gravity of this issue, the gross miscarriage of justice due to systemic incompetency, and the pain that the family has been repeatedly put through, we respectfully request your prompt response. Please send correspondence c/o Andrea Glickman at [andrea@ubcic.bc.ca](mailto:andrea@ubcic.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

Holly Jarrett, Creator of #AmINext Campaign

Jenny Kwan, MLA, Vancouver-Mount Pleasant

Battered Women's Support Services

BC Assembly of First Nations

Butterflies in Spirit

Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

First Nations Summit

February 14th Women's Memorial March Committee

PHS Community Services Society

Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs

Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre Society

WISH Drop-In Centre Society