

Kathy Caughlin
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Ontario Provincial Police
Commissioner's Office
777 Memorial Avenue
Orillia, Ontario L3V 7V3

Re: **Historical Homicide Unit/Velma Thomson Murder**

Commissioner Fantino:

We are compelled to express our thoughts and feelings pertaining to the recent resolve of the 25-year old unsolved murder of Petrolia resident, **Velma Thomson**. This is about a family, **the Thomson family**, who has endured the unbearable. They have been painfully waiting and hoping for 25-years that someone would be held accountable for brutally murdering a member of their family. Velma's family knows from the experience, what a devastating effect a homicide has on your life. Regardless of how long the questions remain unanswered it prevents healing, controls closure and suspends you psychologically in a moment of time.

We feel this is a time in which to rise above existing walls, to express to the Ontario Provincial Police how extremely proud and grateful we are for the recent victory of the OPP's Historical Homicide Unit through the resolve of Ms. Thomson's murder. We take our hats off to the police officers that remained focused and dedicated to solving Ms. Thomson's murder and as a result the ultimate has been achieved...**Justice!** Commissioner Fantino, through your continued commitment to public safety another murderer has been removed from society...away from our children, families and friends.

We continue to pray for Ms. Thomson's family, that they may find peace in knowing a killer will be held accountable and **justice has prevailed for Velma**. We pray they will be able to move forward and begin a new journey of healing. This would not be possible without the unyielding efforts, profound dedication and expertise of the men/women who work within the OPP's Historical Homicide Unit. Although our sister Karen Caughlin's 34-year old murder remains unsolved, the Historical Homicide Unit is not just about one family it is about many, many families. It is with great hope that one day all OPP **Cold Case Victims** across the province of Ontario will be exposed to the workings of your specialized unit, so justice can prevail for all.

The Caughlin family would like to express our deepest gratitude to you, Detective Inspector Ian Maule and his team of investigators.

Sincerely,

Kathy E. Caughlin, Mary Lou Schwemler/Survivors of Homicide

cc: Honourable Steve Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Chris Bentley, Ministry of the Attorney General
Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Community Safety & Correctional Services
Honourable Robert Nicholson, Minister of Justice, Department of Justice Canada
Honourable Steve Sullivan, Ontario Ombudsman for Victims of Crime
Detective Inspector Dave Cardwell, Deputy Director/CIB, Ontario Provincial Police
Detective Insp. Ian Maule, CIB/Case Manager/Historical Homicide Unit, Ont. Provincial Police
Detective Constable Mike Vorshuk, CIB/Historical Homicide Unit, Ontario Provincial Police
Mr. Heidi Illingworth, Executive Director/Canadian Resource Center for Victims of Crime
Ms. Colleen Simms, Executive Director/Victim Services, Sarnia Lambton