

**Minister
Responsible for
Women's Issues**

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**Ministre déléguée
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August 24, 2005

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

As you may know, on December 13, 2004, Premier Dalton McGuinty and I announced the government's comprehensive plan to help women and children live free from fear of domestic violence. Today, I am pleased to send to you our Domestic Violence Action Plan for Ontario.

This report reflects the advice we received from front-line workers and experts on domestic violence through a series of consultations held last year.

We are placing new emphasis on preventing abuse before it happens and supporting victims when it does happen. We are also enhancing counselling and housing supports for victims, as well as improving training for front-line workers and neighbours, friends and families. In addition, we are developing an innovative public education campaign and introducing initiatives to strengthen the justice system.

By working together, I believe we can help prevent domestic violence. I am proud to be part of a government committed to addressing domestic violence and building strong communities. I am also proud to be working with you and your colleagues who are so deeply dedicated to helping women and children receive the supports they need to rebuild their lives.

Here is a link to our report: <http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/preventing/dvap.pdf>. We ask that you distribute it to members of your organization. We encourage you to review it and give us your feedback. Ministries will be implementing their initiatives with input from experts and community members.

For more information on how to become involved in these initiatives, please contact:

Ontario Women's Directorate
900 Bay St, Mowat Block, 6th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Tel: 416-314-0300
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Pupatello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandra Pupatello
Minister