



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Institute for Gender, Race,
Sexuality and Social Justice**
Faculty of Arts
Jack Bell Building
038 - 2080 West Mall
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z2

Phone 604 822 9171
Fax 604 822 9169

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

We are writing to you regarding your remarks on the murder case of Ms. Tina Fontaine. In dealing with this issue, we feel that your erasure of the sociological factors affecting the Tina Fontaine case do a great injustice to the history and oppressions of Indigenous People's across Canada.

In failing to recognize Fontaine's unique personal identity and circumstances, her murder is seen as separate from the countless missing and murdered Aboriginal women who came before her. And thus, its significance as a trend dating back to colonialist policy is wrongly discounted. Despite your denial and treatment of the case as a regular crime, it is doubly dangerous to exist as an Aboriginal and a woman in Canada.

We hope you reconsider your public position on this matter.

Sincerely,

B.F.
S.N.H.
V.S.



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Dear Prime Minister Harper:

We are writing to you regarding your public remarks on the murder case of Ms. Tina Fontaine.

The death of Tina Fontaine is a crime indeed. However, the statistics prove that because of Tina's aboriginal status, she was far more vulnerable to violence. The average homicide rate for Aboriginal people is seven times the Canadian average.

Given that Tina was under government care, we as a nation have a responsibility to ensure her safety. Tina's case cannot be seen as an isolated incident because statistics show that Aboriginal women like her are far more at risk. Such a large threat to a group of Canadians should concern all Canadians.

We hope you reconsider your public position on this matter.

Sincerely,

M.S.
I.K-H.
J.L.



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Dear Prime Minister Harper:

The death of Tina Fontaine should not be seen as the death of an individual but rather as evidence of a larger problem within Canadian society. The overlapping of sexism and racism pushes Aboriginal women to the fringe of society where they are vulnerable to acts of violence. Without value, they are twice as likely to be victims of violent crimes such as murder and rape. Through Canada's history of colonization, class systems and patriarchal structures, we have created this reality in which 15 year old girls like Tina Fontaine are found dead in the river.

You, Prime Minister Harper, and we as Canadians need to take responsibility for our role concerning missing and murdered Aboriginal women. The first step in this long process is a National Inquiry that you have, up to this point, ignorantly refused.

Sincerely,

N.E.
D.S.
K.C.