



NOVASCOTIA
**Status of Women
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 1535, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2Y3 • Telephone 902 424-5230 •

December 3, 2008

Ms. Lynn Gallant-Blackburn

Dear Ms. Gallant-Blackburn:

Thank you for the invitation to attend the December 5th vigil, but unfortunately, due to prior commitments, I am unable to be with you. I would appreciate it if my attached message could be read at the vigil.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Bolivar-Getson".

Carolyn Bolivar-Getson,
Minister responsible for the
Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Attachment

*Message from Honourable Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women*

Dear Friends of Paula,

Unfortunately, due to prior commitments, I am unable to be with you in person but have asked that my thoughts be conveyed.

During the years that I have been responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the struggle for freedom from violence has become even closer to my heart. To hear from Lynn Gallant-Blackburn about the unsolved murder of her sister, Paula Anne Gallant, strikes me deeply. Most of us can only imagine the pain and devastating loss of a beloved sister at the hands of a criminal who has not been found yet.

Reducing violence against women is an ongoing struggle. Indeed, the United Nations recently called violence against women a pandemic – a societal ill that's everywhere. Thanks to community organizations like yours, we will move forward, through increased public awareness and support for victims and their families.

Your vigil on Paula's birthday, as well as all of our daily efforts in our homes, our communities and throughout government, *will* make a difference to our mothers, our daughters, our sisters, and our friends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Bolivar-Getson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Minister responsible for the
Advisory Council on the Status of Women