



Press Release – For Immediate Release

Coalition intervenes in inquiry into Justice Robin Camp’s conduct during sexual assault trial

Toronto, ON – On Friday, July 8, 2016, a national coalition of women’s organizations including METRAC was granted intervener status in the inquiry into the conduct of Justice Robin Camp while he presided over a sexual assault trial in Alberta in 2014. This case made national headlines when Justice Camp asked the complainant, a 19-year-old Indigenous woman, “Why couldn’t you just keep your knees together?”

METRAC is proud to be partnering with Avalon Sexual Assault Centre (Avalon), Ending Violence Association of British Columbia (EVA BC), the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW), the Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), and West Coast LEAF to intervene on this case. The Canadian Judicial Council established the inquiry as a result of a complaint lodged by the Attorney General of Alberta, who is calling for Justice Camp’s removal from the office of Federal Court judge, a position to which he was later appointed.

“The comments made by Justice Camp, including remarks that “sex and pain sometimes go together [...] that’s not necessarily a bad thing” and “young wom[e]n want to have sex, particularly if they are drunk” contribute to harmful stereotypes and the re-victimizing of survivors of sexual violence,” says Tamar Witelson, Legal Director for METRAC. “The public’s confidence in how the criminal justice system handles sexual assault cases is at an all-time low and comments like these from a judge in a sexual assault trial further undermine trust that survivors will get justice if they report sexual assault”. LEAF’s Legal Director Dr. Kim Stanton adds, “This effect is magnified for individuals who experience multiple and intersecting disadvantages arising from characteristics including gender, poverty, race, Indigeneity, sexual orientation, age and/or disability.”

The Canadian Judicial Council’s [Notice of Allegations](#) states that Justice Camp engaged in stereotypical assumptions about the behaviour of sexual assault complainants, victim-blaming, and trivialized the assault allegations. The coalition will make arguments about the impact of Justice Camp’s behaviour on survivors and on public attitudes about sexual assault, and about the legal protections for sexual assault complainants that Justice Camp allegedly ignored.

The hearing into Justice Camp’s conduct will take place in Calgary starting September 6th.

About METRAC: METRAC works to end gender-based violence across communities, through education, research, and policy.

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