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Bountiful's Ten Commandments: Where Freedom of Religion Trumps Children's Rights

By Zoe Oliver

Each culture has its own behavioural rulebook. No matter where in the world one lives, the principles are as universal as they are simple: don't lie, don't kill, don't steal, and don't put your hands anywhere they're not wanted. One ancient version of this moral meter-stick is the prophet Moses' Ten Commandments, supported in principle by the major religions of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

A modern-day prophet with his own set of rules has emerged in Bountiful, BC, to guide the sect of the Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints (FLDS). Like many other cult leaders, Warren Jeffs believes he holds direct audience with God. Founded in the United States almost fifty years ago by Warren's father Rulon, the FLDS seeped north to Canada under the auspices of member Dalmon Oler. Settling in at the foot of the Skimmerhorn mountains, just south of Creston BC, Oler reproduced quietly with his five "celestial wives", creating over 45 children in a country where polygamy is illegal. Through the generations, Oler's reign passed onto Winston Blackmore, who was termed the "Bishop of Bountiful" until his power was wrested away by Warren Jeffs.

Jeffs reinforces his teachings with such a thunderclap of righteous conviction that he has amassed more than 10 000 followers in the United States and among those nearly 100 wives and hundreds of children. His control is absolute. Measured against the standard set by both Canadian law and mainstream religions, his behaviour is wholly unholy. One imagines him holed up in his guarded enclave, concocting a new set of Commandments for Bountiful which might read as follows:

1) I am the mouthpiece of God

Warren Jeffs claims to hold regular audiences with God himself. No one has ever witnessed these encounters, since Jeffs lives in a heavily guarded compound in Arizona. Instead his doctrine is recorded on a series of audio tapes, distributed to Bountiful households and meant to be playing in the background at all times. To further reduce any ideological competition, Jeffs has banned TV, internet, and public gatherings. Posses of young men are sent to knock on the doors of Bountiful members to inquire as to whether they are following Jeffs' rules. Women must wear their hair in long braids and cover themselves to the ankles. The consequences of disobedience are severe.



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Bangkok, Thailand www.ecpat.net

2) Thou shalt have no other Gods besides me

Bountiful BC is a community divided. Winston Blackmore, the leader there until 2002, was removed from the formal leadership structure of Bountiful by Jeffs. Jeffs said that Blackmore was an "apostate" who was "doomed to eternal damnation". Followers still faithful to Blackmore are not allowed to communicate in any way with those who now follow Jeffs. Mothers are separated from daughters, and brothers from sisters, in a town whose motto is "Keep Sweet".

One might question how Jeffs is able to exert such complete control over the people of Bountiful. The answer is simple: they believe that Jeffs holds the key to heaven. Under FLDS dogma, only men with three wives are allowed to enter heaven, and women are only allowed to enter at the invitation of their husbands. The men who are worthy enough to have multiple wives may only be determined by Jeffs, who makes this decision by talking directly to God. Disobeying Jeffs equates to eternal fiery damnation.

3) Honor thy father and thy mother and thy father's 25 other celestial wives

The FLDS claims that polygamy is the, "...new and lasting covenant...", even though the practice is illegal in Canada. Although Canadian law enforcement has not taken any concrete action, Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff is moving forward against the US arm of the cult. He has prosecuted one man on four counts of bigamy and one charge of criminal non-support of his family.

In the words of an ex-cult member, Bountiful women are treated like, "...sexual collectibles..." If their husband dies, they are reassigned to another. They are frequently traded across the Canada-US border to suit the needs of the men in either country. Another women's rights insult, the 'Law of Chastity', prohibits women to have intercourse other than when they are ovulating. This leads to complex mating charts for the more spousally affluent husbands. And so Bountiful's brides, many of them only fifteen years old, make good on their vow to "Keep Sweet" while they wait their turn.

4) Thou shalt not commit adultery, but one may have intercourse with children.

Jane Blackmore was Winston Blackmore's first wife. Now she is his ex-wife, having left the cult to find her own way. Still performing midwifery duties for the community, she confirms that the youngest mother she has tended was 14 years old, and many others were 15 or 16 years old. Debbie Palmer, Jane's sister, was married at 15 to become her own step-grandmother. Almost all

women in Bountiful have their first baby before they are of legal voting age.

Girls may not be the only sexually abused youth in Bountiful. Warren Jeffs' nephew Blaine Jeffs has recently filed a civil suit against the prophet, claiming that his uncle sodomized him in the Church basement between the ages of 5 and 6 years old. Blaine has amassed dozens of affidavits from other cult refugees in support of his charges.

It is not technically illegal for a 14 year old to have intercourse, as long as she is a consenting party who is not at a power disadvantage. However, sexual exploitation IS a crime, meaning individuals in positions of power who misuse their position for their own sexual benefit should be prosecuted under Canadian law. In Bountiful, every single man in a position of power is a polygamist, with multiple young wives being the reward for his virtue. These men are usually decades older than the girls who are having their babies. It is not for lack of proof that the Canadian government has failed to act. Jane Blackmore has kept meticulous birth and paternity records, and is willing to show them to any law enforcement officials who ask her to see them. No one has asked.

5) Thou shalt comply with basic brainwashing techniques, which will allow you to remember the prophet's teachings and keep them holy.

There are two schools in Bountiful BC, one controlled by Jeffs and another 'splinter school' run by Winston Blackmore. Jeffs' school, Bountiful Elementary-Secondary received \$460,826 dollars in provincial funding in 2003, directly from the wallets of taxpayers. Blackmore's school is operating illegally on an agricultural land reserve. These schools are crimes against children. They usurp a child's right to have a free mind by using biased and reportedly racist curricula. They shackle cult members into lives of unskilled labour by providing a poor quality of education and by doing nothing to prevent most pupils from dropping out before Grade 8. They expel young boys out of the cult and into a world where they have no marketable skills, so that the older men may have more young wives.

Arguably, Bountiful's education system's worst offence is against young girls. All BC students are required to have different job experience as part of a career planning program. However, Education Ministry inspectors have reported that Bountiful girls are only allowed to have job experience in, "...preparing, catering, and cleaning up after a meal..." and "...sewing and experiencing other types of handiwork or needlework...". In a country where a woman can choose to be a rock star, an astronaut, a celebrated author, and/or a respected homemaker, the girls of Bountiful also have a choice: petit-point or macramé.

6) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wives.

In Bountiful, it seems that the bounty is women. The more wives a man has, the more he is respected by his neighbours. Warren Jeffs has excommunicated over 170 men from the FLDS in two years. If married, their wives and children are 'reassigned' to more faithful followers. Among the shunned are many 'Lost Boys', teenaged boys who are forced to leave the community for alleged sins against the faith. Many claim that in fact they were forced from their families in order to preserve the high female:male ratio. Without an education, their chances to succeed in the outside world are dismal.

7) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods. (Actually, thy neighbour has given all his goods to the church. See Commandments 1 and 2 for further information).

Low ranking Bountiful members pay extremely high tithes to the church, live on church land, and usually own almost no property of their own. All their assets are compiled into the United Effort Plan (UEP), which is a trust presided over by Jeffs and his faithfuls worth over \$150 million. Recently, the prophet has ominously been urging members to max out their credit cards because they'll, "...be lifted up to heaven..." before the bills are due. With no property and no education, cult members are at the mercy of their leader.

8) Thou shalt not steal, except from the government. Thou shalt not bear false witness, except to the government.

Since the celestial wives of Bountiful are not legally married by the government, they all register as single mothers and receive the child tax credit. Moreover, American girls shipped to Canada apply to immigrate here based on Section 25(1) of the Immigration and Refugee Act, which allows females who give birth here to become permanent residents. Then they are eligible for health care, daycare subsidies, welfare, Canada Pension, Old Age pension, Canada child tax benefit, and the BC family bonus. The school operated by Winston Blackmore in Canada is using land illegally, and was given until January 2005 to evacuate the premises.

Across the border, Warren Jeffs has been the subject of tax fraud investigations. His American schools, also funded by taxpayers, are being looked into because of their almost 3:1 ratio of students to teachers. The police officers in the community are being decertified by the government since they are all cult members and not actually qualified to do their jobs. And what about the civil suit filed by Blaine Jeffs against his uncle Warren? It can't proceed, because law enforcement can't find Warren Jeffs to serve him the papers. One wonders

where he might be hiding, if not in the back rooms of the hundreds of cult houses that he oversees.

9) Thou shalt not kill, except under the circumstances of 'Blood Atonement'.

Murder is a crime almost everywhere in the world. Somehow, though, the FLDS establishment gets away with vowing to disembowel and slit the throats of sinners who disobey cult edict. This gruesome threat is called 'Blood Atonement', and is one of Warren Jeffs' forms of psychological manipulation. Is it surprising that fifteen year old brides raised in Bountiful would fail to protest their marriages to old men? A community held in such a mental vice is prone to danger. Jon Krakauer, who wrote a book about Bountiful called "Under the Banner of Heaven" worries that Bountiful is a setup for another mass death like in Jonestown or Waco.

10) Thou shalt defend the first nine Commandments using the argument of "Freedom of Religion".

In 1993, the BC government issued a report called "Life in Bountiful" which called for action against the human rights violations occurring in the shadows of the Rocky Mountains. None of its recommendations have been acted upon. More than a decade later, Warren Jeffs' cult has only gained power.

Are we allowing these crimes in the name of religious tolerance? Does our age of sexual consent of 14 years old allow polygamists to collect child brides? Isn't it a sin to remove all the choice from a young girl's life? After considering the facts, one wants to answer these questions with a resounding "Yes!". The women of Bountiful who have fled and survived, Debbie Palmer and Jane Blackmore, are speaking out against the concept that religious freedom trumps the fundamental human rights of children. Deprived of education, free thought, and their choice of a life mate, Bountiful's youth obey their leaders for fear of evisceration and eternal damnation. How could such evil occur under the guise of religious freedom?

Choice is purportedly the underpinning of our Canadian democracy. In letting the FLDS establishment enforce their own set of rules, we have failed to protect the women and children of Bountiful against the hypocrisy of a religious zealot. For the children of Bountiful to have a chance, we need to fight to give them a choice.

Zoe Oliver is a medical doctor, and new board member of Beyond Borders. Beyond Borders thanks her for this excellent article.

When Her Husband “Married” A 15 Year Old, Jane Blackmore Fought To Change Her Life and Leave Bountiful

The following are excerpts from an intimate and revealing interview by freelance journalist **Amanda Euringer** with **Jane Blackmore** printed in *The Tye* newspaper on November 18, 2004. For complete text of this interview, go to: www.thetyee.ca/News/current/LeavingBountiful.htm

Background: Jane Blackmore was the first wife of Winston Blackmore whom she divorced after having 7 children. She continues to be the Bountiful midwife. Tragically her daughter Susie Johnson and her three grandsons who live in a polygamist community in Utah are being held there. Jane is being denied any contact and fears for their lives, as their “prophet” Warren Jeffs, holds tight control over every aspect of the lives of his followers. Those, like Jane, who disobey pay a very heavy price.

Was there help for you? Looking after the kids?

My mother in law lived with us. And when I was — I guess I was 24 — my husband Winston took a second wife.

And how did you feel about that?

I knew that it would happen. *But this girl that he married, she was 15, and she was more like a child than like a woman.* It was an interesting experience. I soon learned that I could not be her mother. I couldn’t ask her for help, you know, *it was just something that she had to gradually become accustomed to.* It didn’t actually happen until she started having her own children, that she started to do anything.

Were your sexual needs ever discussed, and were you allowed to explore that?

I was there for the needs of my husband, and that was about it. I don’t even know how to talk about it.

In many ways then, your male children are also kind of powerless.

Yes. Exactly.

That would be really hard as a mother.

Well, you grow up expecting how it is going to work, and how this is going to happen, and so it is not that surprising when it does happen. Certainly in the interim, it cannot be denied that all young adolescents have certain feelings and imaginings and desires. It happened to me ... you know, dreaming and wondering and wishing.

With the all the young women being married off, what happens to the young men?

Well. That’s a very interesting question. *Winston was very, very good at marrying many young women.*

Young women under the age of 16?

Yes, and then there’s all these boys that are thinking, “Well, the girls are getting kind of short in numbers here. Where am I going to get a wife from?”

They must start to act out?

Right now, that is exactly what the boys are doing. They are starting to get out on the streets, and do drugs and parties and find girls, and then, of course, once they start doing that they are considered the “Lost Boys.”

And what happens to Lost Boys?

They just leave and find their way somehow, somewhere. I’ve met many women that have had 15 kids. I know one woman in particular, and eight of those kids were boys, and she does not know where any of those boys are. They have all gone, and haven’t been good boys, according to the rules.

What happens when there are marital problems?

There are many situations where two people are assigned together and are having a difficult time in their marriage. And it is not fun, and it’s not nice, and *there is physical abuse and sexual abuse and mental abuse.* But for the most part women are not allowed to leave a situation like that. They are told, “*You’ve got to change so that it stops happening to you.*”

When there is abuse, does anybody step in?

Well, if it is prolonged and it goes on then, yes, it does eventually get addressed.

How is it addressed?

Then the wife is taken from this man, if he has been unworthy, and *given to somebody else.* And then she is just supposed to be over it, and go on with life.

Did you ever love your husband?

I don’t know. I don’t know if I could say that I have been in love. I don’t know how that feels. There were times when we just lived. *I did what I was told. I had the babies and did the dishes and the wash, and cooked for all these boys that nobody knew what to do with.... There were times in my life I was cooking for 25 to 30 people, three meals a day, seven days a week.*

Are men allowed to insist [on sex]?

Yes. And then not even spend the night with you. You know?

Legally, is there anything that bothers you?

I wonder why it has gone on so long.... I believe that anyone should be able to worship who they want as long as it is not hurting anybody else, but that is not the case.

100 Pounds of Chocolate!

By Barbara Barnett-Fontaine

John W. Seljan, an 86 year-old, wheelchair bound man from the United States was arrested under the Protect Act in Los Angeles as he tried to board a flight to the Philippines, where he planned to have sex with two Philippine girls ages 9 and 12. At the time of his arrest, Seljan was found to have pornographic material, sexual aids, and nearly 100 pounds of chocolates in his luggage. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement launched an investigation in August 2003, after customs inspectors discovered correspondence to the Philippine girls that revealed his plans to have sex with them in the Philippines.

Seljan, like many sex tourists, allegedly believed that sex with children in the Philippines was somehow culturally accepted. The Protect Act was ratified in April 2003, and

serves to dispel such myths that persist regarding sex with children abroad by strengthening U.S. law enforcement's ability to combat child sex tourism. Prior to its enactment, U.S. prosecutors had to prove the accused traveled abroad with the intent of having sex with children. Now the accused is subject to U.S. law if they even attempt to engage in sexual conduct with children under 18 abroad. In addition, the Act enables child sex tour operators and anyone involved in aiding the illicit sexual acts to be held accountable – including a business that hosts a child sex tourism web-site or advertises such 'services'.

The Act also doubles penalties to a maximum of 30 years for each offence. On November 19th of last year, Seljan was convicted on numerous counts and faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of 270 years in prison.

Child Protection after the Tsunamis

THE activities of 155 Australian pedophiles are being closely monitored by authorities in a bid to prevent them traveling to Asian countries where they might take advantage of thousands of children left orphaned and homeless. With child traffickers long known to be operating in Indonesia, the Government has banned any children under 16 leaving the province of Aceh without their parents. Mr Keelty said the Federal Police were working with Interpol and other agencies to watch for any signs that women and children were being trafficked for exploitation. So far there have been no confirmed incidents. The moves come amid reports children are also being offered for illegal adoption and the United Nations is attempting to register every displaced child in Indonesia to stop them being smuggled out of the country.

ECPAT International warned that child protection should be a primary response in emergencies just like the delivery of food and medical supplies. ECPAT International executive director **Carmen Madrinan** said the most dangerous situation for children in emergency situations was for their existence to be unknown. "If there is no accountability for their existence ... in many situations they can disappear," she said. "The biggest danger is that without responsible adult care they lose their identity." Since the tsunamis struck, there have been numerous reports of children being abducted, trafficked and illegally adopted.

The national director of **Child Wise**, Australia's peak child protection lobby group, **Bernadette McMEnamin**, said the areas worst affected by the tsunami had already been plagued by rampant child sex tourism. "The emergency has exacerbated an existing problem," Ms McMEnamin said. Child Wise, with federal government funding through AusAid, is about to open educational training courses in 28 villages in seven countries, five of which have been affected by the tsunamis. Ms McMEnamin said the villages were already plagued with foreigners preying on children but the problem now would be much greater. "We have been concerned about this problem for years. Now it's been exacerbated by this catastrophe," she said. "We are training tourism officials, the local police, the local welfare officers and the local community leaders on understanding child sex tourism and ways to prevent it," she said.

The Indonesian group, **National Coalition for the Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children** (headed by PKPA, which is based in Medan, Northern Sumatra), and **P.E.A.C.E.** in Sri Lanka are working closely with hard-hit communities, reports **Deborah Muir**, Communications Associate of ECPAT International. ECPAT has provided a link on its website at www.ecpat.net to information about the work being carried out. The site also includes an outline of key concerns and recommendations to be addressed regarding the protection of children in emergency situations, as well as news reports.

Child Sexual Exploitation In the News

R. v Sergio Arana Martinez (Toronto)

Toronto police and child protection groups in Ontario including Beyond Borders were outraged by the hyper-lenient sentence given Arana Martinez. Martinez pretended he was a 19 year old, used an alias to find an 11 year old girl **in a chat room** and lure her into sexual activity **after giving her alcohol**. DNA samples from the victim led to his arrest as Martinez had a prior record and was in Canada illegally since 2000. Sentence – 3 years but Martinez was released after sentencing as he spent 21 months in custody prior to his trial. Justice Bruce Hawkins equated that time to 3 years in jail. He is now held on an immigration warrant pending removal from Canada sometime in the future. Said Crown attorney Sean Horgan, **“He’s the manifestation of evil that this legislation proposed to stop. I’ll be recommending we appeal this sentence”**.

Steven Kline (USA)

A Pennsylvania man accused of sexually abusing teenagers in Centre and Columbia counties has pleaded guilty in another case involving a Canadian girl. Steven E. Kline, 45, of Bellefonte, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to sexual exploitation of a child, a charge that could get him up to 30 years in prison. Authorities said Kline traveled to Ontario to have sex with a 14-year-old girl **he met on the Internet**. The girl's identity is protected. In April, Kline was charged in Columbia County with raping a 14-year-old girl police say he met **on the Internet**. A few weeks later, the first of two alleged victims came forward in Bellefonte, eventually leading to more than 1,000 charges being filed against Kline. **Luring children over 14 online for sexual activity is LEGAL in Canada!**

Todd Peterson (USA)

Peterson was sentenced to 13 years in prison after he persuaded a 10-year-old girl in Hermitage, Newfoundland, whom he had befriended **on the Internet** to send explicit pictures of herself. Peterson was so consumed by his pedophilic desires that he had mailed her a digital camera. The girl's mother - who was living with Peterson in St.

Louis while her daughter stayed with relatives - had earlier been convicted and imprisoned first in Canada and then in the US for having actually encouraged the girl to go along with Peterson's fantasies.

Update on the Parole Board and Your Safety

Despite a 25 year record including 5 convictions for assault, 7 for impaired driving, 8 for theft, 3 for breaking and entering and single convictions for fraud, forgery, obstructing justice and many other offences, Perry Hoover had never spent any time in federal jails as he was always treated leniently and given under 2 years in jail. In his last crime spree, **he kidnapped an elderly woman, robbed her at knifepoint, and after forcing her into her car, he crashed it in an attempt to elude police**. For these crimes, he received 2 years in federal jail but got day parole after 10 months. He disappeared while being driven by a female corrections officer who was taking him to the halfway house!

Update on Recidivism Rates for Sex Offenders

90% of sex offenders re-offend a new study written by a Toronto psychiatrist, **Dr. Ron Langevin** reports in the Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice. **Michael Harris**, author of *Con Game: The Truth about Canadian Prisons* said recently, "Since the offending rate is %400 times higher than the Corrections Service of Canada admits, that means that Canadians are much more at risk from federal inmates released from prison than they are being led to believe." *Winnipeg Sun Nov.13,2004* **Graham Stewart** of the John Howard Society was quoted saying, "A lot of people will tell you that the official recidivism figures are ridiculously low and don't show the true level of crime. And they are right." *Vancouver Sun November 6, 2004* "The corrections system wants to show that it is cracking up impressive success rates. And, to accomplish that they fudge definitions and skew statistics. It amounts to a campaign of misinformation." says Conservative Justice Critic **Vic Toews**, *Vancouver Sun November 6, 2004*

Notorious Edmonton Sex Offender Steven Brian Ewanchuk Charged Again!

Ewanchuk was convicted of 3 rapes in the 1970s, sexual assault in 1989, and prostitution offences in 1990. In 1999, in the famous “no means no” Supreme Court decision he was convicted of sexually assaulting a 17 year old in 1994. He is now charged with sexual assault, sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching. The complainant is 8 years old!

Notorious Toronto Pedophile Hockey Coach James Willard, 58, Convicted Again!

Willard has a long history of molesting boys starting when he was 26. Recently, Toronto police were alerted by New Hampshire police that a Toronto man was luring boys over the Internet. Toronto police found 2,000 abuse images on his computer and 161 video clips. Having spent 1 year in jail pending trial which counts for 2 years, Willard was sentenced for possessing child pornography to an additional 10 months in jail. The judge said at sentencing, “By his own admission, James Willard is a RECOVERING pedophile.”

Beyond Borders Toronto: One Year Later

By Nancy Embry

Since I volunteered to set up a Toronto division of Beyond Borders, we have grown by leaps and bounds. All the members are a joy to know: kind hearted, fair-minded and anxious to make changes in the world when they see injustice. Although our group now has additional members, I have included only those who attended meetings in 2004. Below we introduce you to who we are starting with me.

Nancy Embry: I graduated from University of Toronto in 1969 with a degree in English Literature. I went on to work as a flight attendant for 25 years with Air Canada. Since retiring in 1994 I was involved with the Scholarship Fund Committee of the National Ballet School in many capacities including Chair for two years. Last year I retired from that committee to help establish Beyond Borders Toronto. It has been both challenging and rewarding.

David Butt holds law degrees from Queen's University in Kingston, and Harvard Law School. As a Crown prosecutor with the Attorney General of Ontario he has been lead counsel more than two dozen times in the Supreme Court of Canada, and hundreds of times in the Court of Appeal for Ontario. In addition he has conducted numerous lengthy and complex trials. He is consulted across Canada for his expertise in child pornography and the internet, and freedom of expression. He has served as counsel to three independent judicial inquiries or reviews. David is now a trial and appellate lawyer with Torkin Manes Cohen Arbus LLP. In 2002 he was appointed Commission Counsel to Madam Justice Denise Bellamy in a judicial inquiry involving computer technology at the City of Toronto. Since joining Beyond Borders in 2003, he has applied his extensive experience as both a prosecutor and educator widely across Canada to help protect children from sexual exploitation.

Janet MacEachen was a school teacher and a journalist before going into law. Janet is a member of the Nova Scotia and Ontario Bars and she has a Masters degree in International Criminal Law from The University of Wales. She has practiced in the areas of criminal, family, immigration and mental health law. Her current practice is focused on the rights of victims in criminal trials.

Caroline Tyre works at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in the International Sales Department, representing shows from the CBC for sale to broadcasters around the world. Caroline is responsible for managing the sales staff and sales of CBC programming in North America, including sales of some of CBC's award winning

documentaries and dramas about human rights violations and the exploitation of children. She became involved with Beyond Borders after screening an episode of the Fifth Estate entitled *Landslide* about a website used to lead authorities to 300,000 users of child pornography; more than 2000 of them were Canadian.

Lorena Marcucci is one of our founding fundraising members. Lorena has worked on various fundraising campaigns in the past and has a knack for thinking up the wackiest and most far off ideas for fundraising campaigns. She has secured auction items for our first Toronto Beyond Borders fundraising event (which is still in the planning stages). Lorena networks with many organizations that put on major fundraising events and is thrilled to be a part of Beyond Borders Toronto. By day Lorena is an Executive Assistant for a large organization but she is striving to find a 9-2 position so she can be with her children after school. Lorena has two lovely little ladies aged 10 ½ and 9 to whom she tries to instil a sense of justice and freedom. It's never too soon to take control and try to change injustice.

Merrilea Shields graduated from the Law Clerk Program at Toronto's Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology in 2000. She then joined Lombard Canada Ltd. as a Legal Assistant to General Counsel and she currently works in Lombard's Corporate Legal Department as well as Lombard's Ombudsman's Office located in Toronto. For the past 2 years, Merrilea has also been an active volunteer with the Fatal Light Awareness Program (F.L.A.P), an environmental group that works to preserve the lives of migratory birds in urban areas.

Roxana Olivera was born and raised in Peru. She attended a private school run by French Canadian nuns. She studied in France and later came to Canada. Roxana went to the University of Toronto where she became involved in many human rights groups. She wrote for The Varsity newspaper and completed her B.A. in International Relations. Roxana conducted research for her M.A. thesis in Italy where she interviewed survivors of the Holocaust. She completed her M.A. in International Relations, pursuing a career in interpretation and translation. She is proficient in English, French, Spanish and Italian, as well as conversational German. Roxana then landed a contract job as a Refugee Protection Officer at the Immigration and Refugee Board. She is now involved with BB, Amnesty, Greenpeace, and is taking some feature writing courses at Ryerson.

What's New

New Brunswick Status of Women Minister Margaret-Ann Blaney is calling on Ottawa to change the law that allows judges to sentence sex offenders to house arrest. After a child rapist was given house arrest for a sexual assault Ms Blaney said, "The sentences should reflect society's condemnation of sex offences. What kind of message (do conditional sentences send)...to women who have been sexually violated to come forward if at the end of the day it is a conditional sentence that pretty much allows the perpetrator to carry on with their daily lives? Ms. Blaney said her fellow Status of Women ministers agree the Criminal Code provisions on conditional sentences need to be changed and they are hoping to make their case to provincial justice ministers as well as federal officials in January 2005 at the federal/provincial justice ministers' meeting. Both sides are appealing. The victim came forward after seeing the accused driving the local school bus. (Excerpt from a report by Kathy Kaufield in the Telegraph-Journal)

DNA Database: On October 15, 2004 legislation authorizing judges to order DNA samples from people convicted of child pornography, offences related to child prostitution, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, Internet luring and other serious criminal offences was introduced in the House of Commons.

UK Courts to read out previous convictions: A report from the London UK Evening Standard outlines radical shift in the treatment of sex offender's previous criminal records during trials involving new similar fact offences. A defendant's criminal record can now be revealed during trial, provided the offences are very similar to the current-charges. In trials involving child sex and theft offences, a judge will be able to order that a much broader range of previous convictions are disclosed.

On December 2, 2004 the Supreme Court of Canada rejected a convicted serial rapist's bid to overturn his dangerous offender designation. **Clifford Howdle** was convicted in June 2003 of kidnapping and raping three women **while he was out on parole as part of a 7 year sentence for two previous sexual assaults!**

New link to website for the **Standing Committee on Justice, Human Rights, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness** is:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/committee/CommitteeHome.aspx?SelectedElementId=e17 &Lang=1&ParlSession=381&CommitteeId=8984>

The Indigenous and Latina Women and Children's Daily Human Rights News from the Americas website has a page devoted to **Indigenous Women and Children at Risk in Canada**. This is a good site for information on sexual exploitation issues faced by Aboriginal women and children. See:

http://www.libertadlatina.org/Crisis_Canada_Index.htm

"Martin's Hope" – A Safer Canada for Kids
www.abuserecovery.net

Beyond Borders congratulates the **Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness (CCAA)** for their roundtable report "Martin's Hope" released November 22, 2004. The 60 recommendations are a road map for government on how to update Canada's extremely lax child protection legislation to prevent more sexually damaged or murdered children. **Martin Kruze** committed suicide three days after his long time abuser, Gordon Stuckless, was sentenced to two years less a day in jail for all the crimes he committed in Maple Leaf Gardens against young boys. That sentence was later increased to five years in jail. The hope of the Kruze family is that this report will result in better child protection measures so that their son Martin will have not died in vain.

Beyond Borders held its second *Flower Fair and Fundraiser* on October 2, 2004 in the Atrium of the Pan Am Pool, in Winnipeg. Highlight of the day was the presentation of the Beyond Borders *Award of Excellence in Law Enforcement* to the **Toronto Police Service** for its work in solving the tragic Holly Jones murder case. Special guest, **Bruce Smollet**, Toronto Police Staff Inspector and a lead investigator in the case, accepted the award.

Beyond Borders thanks all the dedicated volunteers who gave up their time and energy to make the Flower Fair a raving success. Also thanks to media flower sellers, vendors, and a special mention to the Pow Wow Kids who performed at the award ceremony. A big thank you to the guests, who came, shopped and donated to the cause. Monies raised will contribute to Beyond Borders' continuing fight by dedicated volunteers to end sexual exploitation of children, and improve the rights of children in Canada.