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Cc: ["pparfrey@mun.ca"](#)
Date: 02 March 2012 13:25:00
Attachments: [Dr. Patrick Parfrey re Nfld & Lab Sports Centre 04 November 2011.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor O'Keefe and city counsellors:

I operate Sylvia's Site, a website and blog the sex abuse scandals and betrayals of trust in the Roman Catholic Church in Canada. ([www,theinquiry.ca/wordpress](http://www.theinquiry.ca/wordpress))

Last winter I was advised that Raymond Garth Stanford (Gary Stanford) is working at the Newfoundland and Labrador Sports Centre (NLSC) in St. John's, a facility frequented by children and youth.

Mr. Stanford, a former teacher, is a convicted child molester.

I previously contacted the department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation in the hope of finding someone who would take action in this matter to ensure the safety and well-being of children and youth. My concerns were re-directed to Dr. Parfery, the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Newfoundland and Labrador Sports Centre.

Dr. Parfery's response to my concerns, dated 04 November 2011, is attached.

I was, and still am, quite frankly, appalled that in this day and age Dr. Parfery believes it is acceptable to have a convicted sexual predator on staff and around the children and young people who frequent the centre.

I am equally appalled that Dr. Parfery thinks this is all fine because staff do not presumably work one-on-one" with children. It truly is irrelevant that staff do not work one-on-one with children. The fact that a convicted molester is placed in the company of children is the problem. There have been ample cases in the news over past years of school janitors preying on and molesting children at or from the school. I fail to see why this is any different.

The truth is that there is nothing to prevent any employee at the NLSC, Mr. Stanford included, from talking to the children. There is nothing to prevent staff, Mr. Stanford included, from - under the guise of 'work' - hanging around shower rooms, locker rooms and/or bathrooms. There is nothing to prevent any employee, Mr. Stanford included, from pinching or patting a bottom, or reaching for a child's genitalia. I would add that there is nothing to prevent any employee, Mr. Stanford included, from using his interactions at the centre to groom children. Furthermore, and finally, I was and still am appalled that Dr. Parfery so blithely shifts the onus to protect children frequenting the centre away from those responsible for the centre and onto the shoulders of coaches. In other words, if, God forbid, Gary Stanford seduces or has seduced a child at the NLSC, and if that child was a member of a provincial sports organization, then - according to Dr. Parfery - the fault lies with the child's coach, not with those who hired Stanford, and not with Dr. Parfery who backs the hire of a convicted child molester? This is astounding!

Do the coaches who bring their teams to the centre know that there is at least one convicted child molester on staff? Has anyone given them a heads up, and a picture, so that they can properly protect the children who have been entrusted their care?

I personally have had dealing with countless victims of childhood sexual abuse. The damage done to a child subjected to the horror and shame of sex abuse is inestimable. I can not conceive why anyone would wilfully put children at risk of a life of torment by hiring a convicted child molester work in a facility frequented by children and youth. I understand the risk-taking all the less when this is happening in St. John's Newfoundland, a city and province which has know more than its fair share of heartache and pain through the sex abuse scandals in the Church

I am appealing to your good sense and concern for the safety and well-being of children to ensure

that Mr. Stanford's employ at the NLSC is terminated.

The information I have posted on Sylvia's Site regarding Mr. Stanford, including letters, can be accessed via this link: <http://www.theinquiry.ca/wordpress/misc/prominent-non-clerical-catholics-charged-sued-or-accused/stanford-raymond-gareth-stanford/>

Yours truly,

Sylvia MacEachern

613-████-████.