



The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree
Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

The Parole Board of Canada
410 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0R

**Re: Justice for Barbara Kentner -
Support for First Nations Leadership and Family Calls for Accountability**

Minister Anandasangaree and Members of the Parole Board:

We, a coalition of 10 YWCAs across Ontario serving almost 50,000 people, write in solidarity with Barbara Kentner's family, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and First Nations leadership calling for accountability and systemic change following the decision to grant full parole to Brayden Bushby.

Barbara Kentner's death was an act of anti-Indigenous violence that devastated her family and community. Nearly a decade later, her family continues to carry that loss while navigating systems that should ensure they are informed, supported and heard.

We are deeply concerned by reports that members of Barbara's family who had registered through the victim services process were not meaningfully informed or included in the recent parole process. Families who have lost a loved one to violence deserve to be heard and treated with dignity throughout proceedings that directly affect them.

These concerns are particularly serious given Bushby's history of non-compliance while on conditional release. His day parole was revoked in 2024 following multiple breaches, including alcohol use despite a condition prohibiting it, failing to remain at and report a vehicle collision, failing to attend required meetings, and associating with people prohibited under his release conditions. He was also found with prohibited items. His reported history includes racist and hate-related conduct, including obtaining a Confederate flag tattoo while on release and, while incarcerated, cutting a swastika into the lawn of a federal institution.

As organizations committed to advancing gender equity and ending violence against women, we know that violence against Indigenous women and girls cannot be separated from the systemic racism and colonial structures that continue to shape their experiences with justice systems. Indigenous families should not have to carry the additional burden of navigating systems that have historically failed to protect them.

We support First Nations leadership's calls for:

- Greater accountability and transparency in federal corrections and parole;
- Meaningful review mechanisms when victims and families raise concerns;
- Risk assessments that fully consider histories of violence, racist and hate-related behaviour, substance use and breaches of conditional release;
- Recognition of anti-Indigenous racism within corrections and parole decision-making; and
- Proactive, culturally safe support for First Nations victims and families, including clear communication and a dedicated point of contact throughout the process.

These calls invite questions about Canada's justice and corrections systems and whether they are prepared to listen to Indigenous families, take their concerns seriously and uphold their dignity. The response will be a measure of Canada's commitment to reconciliation.

The YWCA Ontario Coalition expresses our solidarity with Barbara Kentner's family and First Nations leadership in calling for meaningful action. We urge the Government of Canada and the Parole Board of Canada to listen to the concerns being raised and strengthen the systems intended to protect and support victims and families.

Barbara's life mattered. Her family's voice matters. Their calls for accountability deserve to be heard.

YWCA Ontario