



Kitchener-Waterloo
Sexual Assault Support Centre
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Sexual Assault Support Centres to monitor McGuinty's promises to women

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kitchener, October 24, 2007– The Kitchener-Waterloo Sexual Assault Support Centre (KWSASC) has joined other rape crisis centres across Ontario in monitoring twelve promises made by the McGuinty government on women's equality issues and steps to end violence against women over the next four years.

A Liberal election scorecard was developed by the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres and presented at the Annual General Meeting held in Kingston last week. Staff members from KWSASC were among fifty-five representatives from twenty-three centres who attended from all across the province.

Some of the platform promises listed on the scorecard include a coordinated plan to target sexual violence, the creation of 22,000 more childcare spaces, assistance to women pursuing their career goals through training and education, raising the minimum wage and social assistance rates, and building on screening and vaccination programs to increase early detection of cancer.

KWSASC will be distributing these scorecards to our community partners and members of the public who want to work with us to hold Mr. McGuinty accountable for the promises he made during his re-election campaign.

"The Liberals have pledged to work toward ensuring that women and children are safe in their homes and their communities," said Sara Casselman, Community Relations Coordinator at KWSASC. "An integral part of this is Mr. McGuinty's promise to develop a coordinated plan to target sexual violence."

Sexual violence is a pervasive issue in Waterloo Region. In 2006, the Waterloo Region Police Service received 515 sexual assault reports. Given that less than 10 percent of sexual assaults are ever reported to police, we estimate that a dozen sexual assaults are occurring everyday in our region. We look forward to working with our provincial government and their representatives in building and implementing a work plan to address these issues.

Further media inquiries can be directed to Sara Casselman, KWSASC at (519) 571-0121 X23 or sara@kwsasc.org