



YWCA
T O R O N T O

A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN



For Immediate Release
Monday January 10th, 2005

YWCA Toronto Welcomes the Auditor General's
Follow-Up Review of the investigation of Sexual Assaults

As consultant to the original audit in 1999, YWCA Toronto's Director of Advocacy and Communications, Amanda Dale welcomes the auditor's examination of the police services.

"We have been involved in this issue since the ruling in Jane Doe's case –as part of the professional consultation team that supported the auditor's work, and as part of the Reference group that oversaw the implementation process. It is a shame that the Police Chief chose in his press conference today to take a defensive rather than constructive tone", she commented, referring to the 11 a.m. press conference held by Police Chief Julian Fantino.

Fantino took a "a good offense is the best defense" tactic today when he tried to discredit local women's groups and some journalists in the audience who wanted answers.

"We have seen the Chief take this wounded and personal approach in the past over this issue, and we are sorry he has chosen this tactic once again", says Heather McGregor, Executive Director.

"Here was another opportunity to create a win-win scenario for the Chief, the Police Services Board, women's groups and the women of Toronto to whom the sex crimes unit is ultimately accountable. Griffiths' report makes clear the need for continued work with the women's anti-violence services, and a complete overhaul of police training in order to keep true to the recommendations of the original audit report from 1999", says McGregor.

YWCA Toronto is Toronto's oldest and largest women's service association. We provide shelter, housing, counselling, groups, employment programs and outdoor education for 49,000 women from across the city.

For further information please contact Amanda Dale 416-961-8100, x350, Or visit our web site at <http://ywcatoronto.org/index.htm>.