



# Organisation pour la Sauvegarde des Droits des Enfants Organization for the Protection of Children's Rights

## Press Release... Press Release ... Press Release

For immediate release

### Dreadful Family Tragedy in Brossard

*A tragedy that could have been averted*

**Montreal, April 24, 2002** – How many more tragedies and victims will it take before the various levels of government finally decide to establish efficient prevention and support programs to help parents and children cope with family break-ups? Once again, this morning, the media reported that a desperate father killed his 2 little girls aged 4 and 1½ as well as his spouse, before taking his own life probably as a result of the couple's recent break-up.

“For many years, the **Organisation for the Protection of Children's Rights (OPCR)** has been urging various government authorities to put into action the main recommendations ensuing from the numerous research projects and international conferences it has conducted on the situation of the family in Canada and in other parts of the world”, says **Mr. Riccardo Di Done**, President and Founder of the charitable organization. “Free and compulsory family mediation, the creation of a specialized court to deal with family conflicts as well as the institution of a system of reconciliation for couples in difficulty, are some of the integrated measures advocated by the OPCR which, had they been implemented, could have prevented such a dreadful tragedy”, emphasizes **Mr. Di Done**.

The three levels of government prefer, however, to squander public funds instead of investing in the eradication of poverty and violence. In the meantime, poverty rates, a major factor in the incidence of violence, continue to rise in large urban areas throughout Canada and in Quebec in particular. “The growing problem of poverty and violence carries huge costs for society as a whole and it is time for all government levels to make this issue their priority”, concludes **Mr. Di Done**.

The OPCR is a registered charity founded in 1983 whose mission is to protect and defend the rights of children, adolescents, parents, grandparents and other members of the extended family worldwide.

FOR THE LOVE OF OUR CHILDREN!

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For further information: Pascal Fischer  
Phone: (514) 593-4303  
Email: pfischer@osde.ca

Siège social/Head Office  
**Riccardo Di Done**  
5167, Jean-Talon est, # 370  
St-Léonard, Qc  
H1S 1K8  
Tél.: (514) 593-4303  
Fax: (514) 593-4659

Québec  
**Riccardo Di Done**  
2360, Chemin Ste-Foy, # 450  
Sainte-Foy, Qc  
G1V 4H2  
Tél.: (418) 650-2105  
Fax: (418) 650-2164

Alberta  
**Dr. Arthur Neumann**  
300 Lausage Center  
10140, 117<sup>ème</sup> sud  
Edmonton, Alta  
T5K 1X3  
Tél.: (780) 488-1199  
Fax: (780) 488-3755

Colombie-Britannique  
**Me Peter Allik-Petersenn**  
205-141 rue Victoria  
Kamloops, C.B.  
V2C 1Z5  
Tél.: (250) 828-9545  
Fax: (250) 828-1297

Site Internet/Web Site  
[www.osde.ca](http://www.osde.ca)  
Courriel/email  
[Info@osde.ca](mailto:Info@osde.ca)

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