

**ALBERTA STATUS OF  
WOMEN ACTION  
COMMITTEE**

**P.O. BOX 1573  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
T5J 2N7**

**TELEPHONE (403) 424-3073**

November 15, 1985

The Hon. Benoit Bouchard  
Secretary of State  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Bouchard,

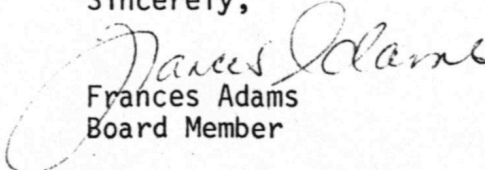
We are writing to you regarding the Organizational Society of Spouses of Military Members (OSSOMM), a group that has requested a \$5,000 grant from the Women's Program of your Department. While many grant applications have reportedly been held up due to time limitations and reorganizing of Cabinet Ministers, it is apparent that OSSOMM's application may be refused for political reasons.

The Alberta Status of Women has met with several OSSOMM members; we have discussed their activities and goals, read their newsletters and Brief to the Federal Commission on Equality Rights and fully support their grant proposal. The treatment of women on the military bases is frightening and horrifying. Their lives provide us with a snapshot of the history of women's oppression. Many of us assume that some of that oppression is history, but when we hear and read of the military wives' ongoing subjugation and the Department of National Defense's denial of their basic human rights, we realize that the assumption is false.

It has taken a long time for the military wives to find the courage to speak out. The great personal risks that they have taken attests to how badly they have been treated and how much they need our support.

We suggest that you fully consider the situation of the military spouses and approve their grant application as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

  
Frances Adams  
Board Member

cc. Walter McLean, Minister for the Status of Women  
~~OSSOMM~~  
Dianne Craig Hutton, Women's Program - Southern Alberta

*Adams, Frances.  
(ASWAC)*