

**Murray Wood's letter to the editor of the National Post (unpublished).**

January 7. 2004

Dear Editor

Thank you for publishing Kelly Patrick's January 6 article "Border Battle." The article avoids sensational descriptions of conflict between parents in order to focus on the real issue: the harm that parental abduction does to children.

The Honourable Madam Justice Koenigsberg stated in her December 4, 2006 Oral Reasons for Sentence in Regina vs. Nathalie Getliffe-Grant that, "For most children, fundamental to their sense of identity is an ability to love and accept love from each available parent...it is the children's rights that are at stake in custody and access issues." Madam Justice Koenigsberg further elaborated; "The purpose of s. 282 (1) of the ***Criminal Code*** of Canada is the protection of children. Its violation is a serious criminal offense, the victims of which are the deprived parent, but particularly, the children who are abducted."

Since my children were abducted in November 2004, my family, my fiancée, Brett, and I have worked constantly to try and reestablish contact with them. We have also tried to raise public awareness of the danger of abduction facing so many Canadian children. Our goal is to assist parents in protecting their own children from the abuse of parental abduction.

I hope that Ms. Patrick's description of the difficulties that my family has faced since the children were abducted will encourage other parents to take appropriate steps before they find themselves permanently separated from their own children.

While the financial burden placed upon my family by the children's abduction has been severe, I need to clarify regarding the \$100,000 estimate quoted in the article. My lawyers in Japan, Mr. Honda and Mr. Wakely, took on my case in January 2005. Given the existing Canadian Orders, they recommended a *habeas corpus* application at the District Court in Saitama Japan. A process that should have taken a matter of weeks stretched over months and then years. Knowing that our ability to pay for their services had been exhausted, both Mr. Wakely and Mr. Honda stuck with us until all legal avenues had been explored. When our file was finally closed Mr. Honda, having done hundreds of hours of work on our case, had received compensation for little more than his clerical expenses while acting on our behalf. Mr. Wakely has received no financial compensation whatsoever. He simply asks that we continue to pursue justice for Takara and Manami and other children who have been, or are in danger of being, abducted.

Sincerely,

Murray Wood