CONCLUSION

The evidence heard by the Committee over a five month period has led it to conclude that we, as a society, have no alternative but to work toward permanent, effective solutions to the endemic problem of violence against women. Sexual and physical assaults, threats, and murder are a terrifying and brutal reality for too many women. In spite of the good work and good will that exist across the country for enhancing the security and safety of women, violence against women has continued. As well, the phenomenon remains largely a women's problem of which there is minimal social awareness or support. This points to a requirement for innovative responses.

The Committee is convinced that security of the person is a fundamental human right that is denied to too many women in our society. The fact that women are the targets for men's violence is a tragic reflection of the unequal social and economic status of women in relation to men. It is the hope of the Committee that the recommendations in this report will help to redress the systemic forms of inequality that foster and legitimate violence against women.