



**For Immediate Release  
February 19, 2013  
Vancouver, BC**

### **RCMP Commissioner's Comments expose reality of RCMP Old Boys Club**

Reported comments by RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson demonstrate the level of sexism that is operating within the ranks of the RCMP according to Justice for Girls, the organization who called in an international human rights watch dog to investigate police abuse and neglect of Aboriginal teen girls in north central BC.

Commissioner Paulson reportedly sent an email to RCMP membership saying "don't worry about it, I've got your back" in response to internal sexual harassment claims and a damning Human Right Watch report that was released last week documenting police abuse of Aboriginal girls and women in BC.

According to Annabel Webb, Justice for Girls director, "Paulson's comments make it crystal clear that women and girls will face a wall of sexism if they dare to make complaints against the RCMP. There is no question that the RCMP brotherhood will be protected at the expense of the women and girls." Webb goes on to say, "This sexism and defensive mobilizing of the RCMP boys club is exactly why girls and women are waiting for an independent, civilian oversight body before they come forward with formal complaints."

Justice for Girls invited Human Rights Watch--a world-renowned international human rights watch dog--to BC after hearing years of Aboriginal teen girls' reports of police abuse and failures to protect them from violence. In the absence of a credible, safe, or effective police complaint mechanism, Justice for Girls invited in Human Rights Watch to investigate.

Human Rights Watch released its 89-page investigation report last week. The Human Rights Watch report, ["Those Who Take Us Away: Abusive Policing and Failures in Protection of Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern British Columbia, Canada,"](#) documents both ongoing police failures to protect indigenous women and girls in the north from violence and abuses perpetrated by police officers against women and girls.

-30-

Contact:  
Annabel Webb, Justice for Girls, 604 689 7887