

October 2, 2016

National NewsMedia Council

RE: Formal Complaint – Breach of Journalistic Standards

I am writing to file a formal complaint with regard to an article written by Ms. Elizabeth Payne of the Ottawa Sun. The article I wish to draw your attention to is entitled **“With New School Year, Vaccine Blitz Begins”** (September 29, 2016) <http://www.ottawasun.com/2016/09/28/with-new-school-year-vaccine-blitz-begins-again>

In the article Ms. Payne creates the false impression that vaccination is a requirement in the Province of Ontario in order for children to attend school. This is a clear misrepresentation of the facts. All vaccinations in Canada are voluntary. What is required in the Province of Ontario is up-to-date documentation of adhering to the recommended vaccine schedule or a statement of exemption for medical, religious or reason of conscience. Payne fails to inform readers that parents have the legal right to exempt their children from the practice of artificial immunization.

I suggest that Ms. Payne would reasonably be expected to have knowledge of Ontario’s laws governing vaccination of children in school and daycare. This begs the question why Ms. Payne omits vitally important information about parents’ legal right to obtain conscience or religious based vaccine exemptions under ISPA.

The Ottawa Sun and Ms. Payne appear to be actively engaged in depriving Ottawa’s citizens of their Charter rights to fundamental freedoms of conscience and religion, their legal right to security of the person, and their medical right to informed consent.

The efforts of the Ottawa Sun are also a violation of numerous international Conventions to which Canada is signatory including the Nuremberg Code and Helsinki Accords which defend the basic human right to the Informed Consent ethic and reject the moral argument that the creation of alleged benefits for the many justifies the sacrifice of the few, as well as the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights; Article 6 – Consent:

“Any preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic medical intervention is only to be carried out with the prior, free and informed consent of the person concerned, based on adequate information. The consent should, where appropriate, be expressed and may be withdrawn by the person concerned at any time and for any reason without disadvantage or prejudice.”

Parents with legal exemptions for their unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children feel under attack when they read articles like Ms. Payne’s because a

Canadian's legal right to exemption from vaccination isn't acknowledged and shared with the general community. Such reporting creates fear, distortion, and division in a community. The fear and distortion, however, is created by the media's misrepresentation of the facts.

When citizens are denied their right to even know that they have a legal right under the law to exempt their children from vaccines for school or day care, that vaccination is NOT mandatory, and that no one can force them to vaccinate their children against their will in order to go to school, the result is a government and medical industry imposed tyranny supported by a complicit media.

The media ought to be independent of government and corporate agendas, and instead serve as an honest broker of information and work to safeguard and protect the rights and freedoms of Canadians. The kind of deceptive reporting of Ms. Payne and the Ottawa Sun harms not only those who may not be aware of their legal right to chose not to vaccinate, it also undermines confidence in the integrity of the media to be accurate, fair, and balanced.

It is my expectation that Canada's media would respect and protect our rights and freedoms as citizens of Canada rather than erode and undermine them. I request the NewsMedia Council to uphold the standards of responsible journalism and address the inaccurate and deceptive efforts of Ms. Payne and the Ottawa Sun.

Our communities deserve better.

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