October 28, 2019

Dear [redacted]

On behalf of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada and Silver Lake Mennonite Camp, thank you for your follow-up letter regarding *SafeZone* and for sharing your concerns about how Ruth-Ann Shantz has been left feeling used and re-victimized by the response to her coming forward. We acknowledge that experiences of abuse and trauma are deeply painful and that the impact on an individual's life is profound. We are saddened to hear that Ruth-Ann feels that Silver Lake and MCEC's response to her revelation of abuse continues to be inadequate. Our desire and hope is to respond in helpful ways that do not re-injure or revictimize her.

Please be assured that our intent is to support Ruth-Ann. We absolutely agree that the perpetrator should never have contacted Ruth-Ann. Silver Lake tried to limit his actions with the no-trespass order. If Ruth-Ann desires to further limit the actions of the perpetrator, to our knowledge, the best means available would be to apply for a restraining order or peace bond against him.

Further, we are deeply sorry that Ruth-Ann was distressed with the Canadian Mennonite article reporting her abuse, and that she was not more connected in the development of SafeZone. We were also concerned by the Canadian Mennonite article, and we have continued to engage in conversations with Canadian Mennonite to address this. Given that these violations and concerns directly impact Ruth-Ann, we feel that we should reach out to her directly to explore how to respond. To that end, we will send Ruth-Ann a letter in the coming weeks expressing our regrets, and inviting her to share her concerns more fully with us.

Thank you for your care for Ruth-Ann. We are grateful for concerned people like yourselves who are willing to support victims/survivors of sexual abuse. Thank you for taking the time and effort to be a part of Ruth-Ann's healing journey. Our prayer is that Silver Lake and MCEC will also be able to support her in that way.

Sincerely,

Arli Klassen, Moderator
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

David Lobe, Board Chair
Silver Lake Mennonite Camp

SILVER LAKE MENNONITE CAMP