

May 20, 2026

The Honourable Doug Downey
Attorney General of Ontario
Ministry of the Attorney General
Toronto, Ontario
doug.downey@pc.ola.org
attorneygeneral@ontario.ca

Re: Letter of Concern Regarding the Verdict in *R. v. Sloka* and Request for Full Appeal Review

Dear Attorney General Downey,

I am writing to you on behalf of YWCA Toronto to express our profound concern regarding the April 24, 2026, acquittal in *R. v. Sloka*, and to respectfully urge Ontario's Crown Appeal and Review Branch to undertake the fullest possible review of this decision, with serious consideration given to pursuing an appeal.

Notably, this case has deeply impacted survivors, families, frontline service providers, and the public at large across the province.

The trial of Jeffrey Sloka was one of the largest sexual assault prosecutions in Waterloo Region's history. The case involved 70+ women and more than 70 charges. Following pretrial rulings and dismissals, Dr. Sloka ultimately stood trial on 48 counts of sexual assault.

For many of the women and their families involved, this has been a decades-long journey.

Complaints to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario about Dr. Sloka date back more than a decade. In 2018, police began their investigation. In 2019, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario revoked Dr. Sloka's licence after finding his conduct constituted sexual abuse of multiple patients. The criminal trial itself stretched from 2021 through 2025.

On April 24, 2026, Justice Craig Parry acquitted the accused of all criminal charges.

While we acknowledge the independence of the judiciary and the foundational principles of due process, we cannot ignore the devastating impact this ruling has had on survivors across this province. This impact is compounded by the staggering scale of the allegations, the number of complainants, and the expert evidence presented during the trial.

For many survivors, this verdict does more than reopen wounds; it reinforces a systemic message that the legal system is not built to hold power to account. We must explicitly recognize that this mistrust is not felt equally. For Indigenous, Black, racialized, disabled, youth, and 2SLGBTQIA+ survivors, the barriers to seeking justice are multiplied by historical and ongoing experiences of systemic racism, ableism, and discrimination within the state.

[Shelter & Housing](#) | [Employment & Training](#) | [Support Services](#) | [Girls', Youth and Family Programs](#) | [Advocacy](#)

87 Elm Street, Toronto, Ontario M5G 0A8 T 416.961.8100 F 416.961.7739 info@ywcatoronto.org www.ywcatoronto.org

CHARITABLE BUSINESS NUMBER: 10822 9865 RR0001



In a criminal legal system already defined by deep-seated systemic discrimination, which results in extraordinarily low reporting and conviction rates, this outcome further entrenches a profound and justified lack of safety. For those living at the intersections of multiple forms of oppression, this verdict is not just a single disappointment; it is a confirmation that the system continues to prioritize institutional protection over the safety of the most marginalized.

Only six percent of survivors report sexual assault to police, and of those, only 10 percent of reported cases result in a conviction. These numbers underscore why many survivors do not see the criminal legal system as a viable or supportive option. Survivors who do choose this path are too often asked to navigate lengthy, invasive, and often retraumatizing legal processes, with no guarantee that their experiences will be meaningfully recognized.

This case will now shape how many survivors in our community assess the risks of coming forward.

Public concern following this verdict has been immediate, widespread, and deeply felt. While we recognize that public outrage cannot and should not determine legal outcomes, it does signal when public confidence in the very systems tasked with upholding and delivering justice is wavering. It is our sincere hope that these signals are taken seriously and acted upon via the appeal process.

We respectfully urge you and your Ministry to ensure that this verdict is subject to rigorous review within the Crown Law Office – Criminal (CLOC), including its Appeals and Review functions, with all viable grounds of appeal carefully examined for a potential application to the Court of Appeal for Ontario. We urge your office to ensure that this matter receives the thorough appellate consideration it deserves.

Sincerely,

Deepa Mattoo



CEO, YWCA Toronto

CC: Jessie Rodger, Chair, Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres, jessier@anovafuture.org
Sara Casselman, Executive Director, Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region, sara@sascwr.org
Marit Stiles, Leader of the Official Opposition and Member of Provincial Parliament for Davenport mstiles-co@ndp.on.ca
Jessica Bell, Member of Provincial Parliament for University-Rosedale jbelle-qp@ndp.on.ca
Peter Tabuns, Member of Provincial Parliament for Toronto-Danforth tabunsp-co@ndp.on.ca
Kristyn Wong-Tam, Member of Provincial Parliament for Toronto Centre kwong-tam-qp@ndp.on.ca
Mary-Margaret McMahon, Member of Provincial Parliament for Beaches-East York mmcmahon.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario and Member of Provincial Parliament for Etobicoke North doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

[Shelter & Housing](#) | [Employment & Training](#) | [Support Services](#) | [Girls', Youth and Family Programs](#) | [Advocacy](#)

87 Elm Street, Toronto, Ontario M5G 0A8 T 416.961.8100 F 4169617739 info@ywcatoronto.org www.ywcatoronto.org

CHARITABLE BUSINESS NUMBER: 10822 9865 RR0001