

## **Kudos to Ashley's lawyers**

Mon Nov 22 2010



Ashley Smith's mother Coralee and Julian Falconer, lawyer for the Smith family.

TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

### **Re: Right move on inquest, Editorial Nov. 15**

Ultimately, the reversal of the coroner's decision to limit the scope of the inquest in Ashley Smith's tragic death comes as a result of the strenuous arguments and passionate presentations made at last week's public hearing by the family's lawyer, Julian Falconer, lawyers for the Elizabeth Fry Societies and the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth.

Without their dogged efforts to challenge the decision made by the coroner to place rigid restrictions on the scope of the inquest, this matter may very well not have been expanded to include the full 11.5 months prior to Ashley's death, which is what the Smith family has valiantly been fighting for.

The public owes a great debt of gratitude to them for their courage to never waiver in their determination to have this matter opened to intense scrutiny. Mr. Falconer spoke for the family and the Canadian public at large when he said, "This is disgusting and should all be looked at."

For the barbaric treatment Ashley was subjected to, for the indescribably tragic loss to her family and for the need for the public to know, a coroner's jury must be presented with all the details of Ashley's confinement and a Royal Commission of Inquiry must follow.

*Ellen Watson, Aurora*



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