



association of university and college employees

July 25, 1984

Mrs. Doreen Helm

Burnaby, B.C.

Dear Doreen,

It is with our very deepest sympathies and heart felt regret that we write to you now. We truly feel for you in your most tragic loss and wish to offer you any help, no matter how trivial or involved, that you may need in the coming days. As a parent, I personally experience a great deal of anguish at the thought of anyone losing a child. In our children we tend to see a little bit of ourselves, we see our strengths as well as our weaknesses and our children tend to bring the most meaning to our lives. It is, most often, that our love for our children and the love we receive in return, gives our lives a sense of grace and purpose.

At this point I am not entirely sure what I am trying to say. For you, the love of your remaining children will become that much more precious. They, in their own loss, will in turn need you a little more. I know you to be a strong woman and I think that now more than ever you will need to draw upon that strength to endure the difficult times ahead. You have our support as well as a great deal of respect. It is most certainly a small percentage of people in this world who can emotionally survive a number of traumatic events. You are a survivor and must remain so, for your own sake as well as for your other children and grandchildren.

Please take good care Doreen. You are very much in our thoughts and prayers. And please call if we can be of any assistance at all.

Sincerely,

Fairleigh Wettig
President, on behalf
of the AUCE Local 1
Executive