

January 24, 2008

OPEN LETTER

Pierre Marchand
President
Archambault Musique
500, Rue Ste-Catherine Est
Montreal, QC
H2L 2C6

Sent via fax: (514) 849 0764

Re: The sale and promotion of “murder music” through Archambault Musique

Dear Mr. Marchand:

Egale is Canada’s largest national organization advocating on behalf of the gay and lesbian community. **Stop Murder Music (Canada)**, is an organization that combats calls for violence and murder against the gay and lesbian community by certain dancehall artists. In our capacities as Executive Director and Founder respectively, we are writing to you to express our concern about the availability and sale of homophobic music through Archambault Musique. After reading this letter, we hope that you will agree that Archambault Musique should not be a platform for anti-gay artists to promote hatred with the sale of their music in Canada.

You may be unaware that a number of dancehall artists have openly advocated, encouraged and glorified the violence and murder of gays and lesbians in their music. We have enclosed sample lyrics by a number of recording artists, including Elephant Man, Buju Banton and T.O.K, as examples which are typical of the violence advocated toward gays and lesbians.

Incitement of violence and murder offends Canadian law. We would like to bring to your attention the following provisions:

Sections 318 and 319 of the *Criminal Code* make it criminal offences to advocate killing members of a group, or to publicly incite or promote hatred based on a person’s sexual orientation.

Given the calls for violence and murder contained in the attached lyric excerpts, we are sure you can appreciate our profound concern about any involvement by Archambault Musique in its dissemination.

We believe that your customers care about Canadian values and law and expect Archambault Musique, one of the country’s largest music retailer, to take a leadership role in exercising corporate social responsibility.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns in greater detail and to search for a speedy and cooperative resolution to this matter. We will call your office within the next week to follow-up on this letter and thank-you in advance for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Helen Kennedy
Executive Director
Egale Canada
8 Wellington St. East, 3rd Flr
Toronto, Ontario
M5E 1C5

Akim Adé Larcher
Founder
Stop Murder Music (Canada)
c/o Egale Canada
8 Wellington St. East, 3rd Flr
Toronto, Ontario
M5E 1C5