

May 9, 2022

Honourable Marco Mendicino,
Minister for Public Safety

Dear Minister Mendicino

Re: Over representation of Indigenous Women Inmates in Correctional Services Canada

On behalf of the members of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC), I want to express our shock and sadness to read in our morning paper that Indigenous women make up half of all federally sentenced women. This raises two critical questions:

- Why/how has this happened?
- What action is needed to correct this egregious fact?

Reports indicate that there have been numerous recommendations both related to cause and solutions aimed at prevention and reduction of their incarceration.

Our members urge you to take immediate action to implement these recommendations with concrete initiatives that address underlying factors and ensure that Indigenous women inmates are treated fairly and are not subject to further trauma.

Sincerely
Patricia Leson, President
National Council of Women of Canada

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Canada is the traditional territory of Indigenous and Metis People. We are grateful to join with others in peace and hope, advocating for an improved quality of life for women, children, families, and society.

Note: The original draft of this letter was initiated by Monica Cullum, NCWC Convenor for Federally Sentenced Women.

C: Honourable Marc Miller, Minister Crown - Indigenous Relations marc.miller@parl.gc.ca .
Honourable Marcia Ien, Minister Status of Women, Gender Equality and Youth marci.ien@parl.gc.ca.
Gary Vidal, Conservative Party of Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations Gary.Vidal@parl.gc.ca.
Leah Gazan, New Democratic Party of Canada (NDP) Women and Gender Equality
leah.gazan@parl.gc.ca
Anne Kelly, Commissioner Correctional Services Canada media@csc-scc.gc.ca
Emilie Coyle, Exec. Dir. Canadian Association Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEF) admin@caefs.ca
Lynne Giroux, CEO Native Women's Association Igroulx@nwac.ca
Ivan Zinger, Correctional Investigator/Ombudsman CSC org@oci-bec.gc.ca
Kathryn Wilkinson, National President, Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)
execdir@cfuw-fcfdu.ca