



December 06, 2021

Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety

Dear Minister Mendicino

Re: Bill C-21 – An Act to Combat Intimate Partner and Gender-based Violence

As we approach December 6th and honour the fourteen women murdered and those injured by a gun man in 1989 at Ecole Polytechnique, which is commonly known as the Montreal Massacre, members of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge you, without delay, to reintroduce Bill C-21. This mass attack on women still resonates today and demands that every effort be made to prevent violence against women. Bill C-21 would go a long way to assist in this process.

Recent reports by researchers at the Canadian Femicide Observatory, University of Guelph, indicate that during the pandemic the number of women victims of homicide has risen to 92 women during the first half of this year, which is up from 60 in 2019. This indicates that women are disproportionately victimized by violence. As our government proceeds to address the fall-out from COVID-19, this aspect of recovery must not be overlooked. The commitment to move forward in reducing the unacceptable rise in violence against women cited in the Speech from the Throne must be made real.

The NCWC wishes you the best in this new portfolio, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

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 prepared by Monica Cullum, Justice Convenor.

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Honourable Marci Ien, Minister for WAGE and Youth
Honourable Karen Gould, Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development
Honourable Erin O'Toole, Leader of the Official Opposition
Honourable Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party
Honourable Yves-Francois Blanchet, Leader of the Parti Quebecois
Amita Kuttner, Leader of the Green Party of Canada
Prof. Myrna Dawson, Executive Director, Canadian Femicide Observatory , University of Guelph
Coalition for Gun Control