



August 13, 2021

Patricia Leson
President
National Council of Women of Canada
presncwc@gmail.com

Dear Patricia:

I hope this finds you and your loved ones well. I sincerely apologize for the delay in responding to you

Thank you for sharing with me your correspondence to my colleague the Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, regarding sexual misconduct in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is one of the most pervasive, deadly and deeply rooted human rights violations of our time. Everyone has the right to live free from violence. As you noted, the 2021 Budget proposes a number of steps to eliminate sexual misconduct and gender-based violence in the military and support survivors, as part of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. GBV is an issue that is of utmost importance to me, and my team at WAGE. We continue working to develop the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence and are looking forward to reviewing the recommendations put forward by Justice Louise Arbour. I will also continue to work with my colleague Minister of National Defence, Harjit Sajjan ensure a survivor centric approach.

I see that you have shared your correspondence with the appropriate departments. Thank you again for taking the time to write and be assured that your comments have been noted.

Take good care.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Maryam Monsef'.

The Honourable Maryam Monsef, P.C., M.P.
Minister for Women and Gender Equality
and Rural Economic Development