



November 09, 2021

Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of International Affairs

Dear Ministers

Members of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) are becoming increasingly apprehensive of the situation in Ethiopia. Famine, genocide, massacres, torture, executions, and gang rapes of civilian women and girls, as reported by the United Nations human-rights office and others, are ominous. The devastating on-going war, particularly in and around the Tigray region where Canadian Mining companies have significant interest, is of specific concern.

Since 2007, the NCWC has advocated for our government to ensure that mining companies registered in Canada be required to follow the same social and environmental standards in their international operations as those expected in Canada. This must be a serious consideration as Canadian mining companies push to secure licences and rights for their projects in Tigray, where gold is considered a potential bonanza, and yet where people are suffering and dying.

The welfare of the people must always come before profits. Investment where there is significant risk of contributing to human rights violations must be considered a subject of deepest concern and a priority issue for your government. Canadians must be assured that our tax dollars are invested to improve the lives of the people, while not helping to perpetuate violence against human rights.

Our members recognize the complexities of the situation but urge you to maintain and strengthen efforts to address these egregious acts in the best way and as quickly as possible.

Thank you; the NCWC looks forward to working with each of you in your roles in the 44th Legislative Assembly.

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.

