

The Honourable David Lametti, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

Dear Minister Lametti,

On behalf of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC), I urge you to uphold, endorse, and strengthen the enforcement of the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA-Bill C-36). The Council is aware that there are threats to the current legislation, and we encourage you to respond swiftly to ensure that Canada's enlightened equality model addressing prostitution is protected. Doing so will safeguard vulnerable citizens including racialized and marginalized women and youth who are dramatically and disproportionately represented in the commercial sexual industry, underscoring a key intent of the law: to end exploitation.

PCEPA is a vital tool in our collective commitment to end sexual exploitation in Canada and is a direct response to the obligations the country assumed in 2002 upon ratifying the Palermo Protocol and Section 3, Article 9.5, that specifically states:

"Parties shall adopt or strengthen legislative and other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking."

In preserving and protecting PCEPA the government will have the support of Canadians from coast to coast. This is affirmed by a national survey commissioned by the London Abused Women's Centre in July of 2020. Conducted by Nanos Research, [the extensive study confirms that Canadians are five times as likely to support than oppose Canada's prostitution legislation](#), which does not criminalize women and others who sell sex, but makes pimping, trafficking, buying sex and brothel ownership/operation illegal.

Recognizing that there are well financed and organized lobbying groups that seek to overturn this law due to its impact on the demand for paid sexual services, we also urge the government to take steps to further support women who are seeking to leave prostitution, and to further invest in and develop programming, opportunities, and measures that support individual basic needs, thereby limiting the likelihood of persons being trafficked into prostitution, held there against their will, or indeed, entering out of a need prompted by poverty and isolation.

On behalf of the NCWC, I thank you for your service and urge you again to protect this law.

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 Penny Rankin, NCWC Convenor for Children and Youth

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