

May 11, 2022

Honourable Justin Trudeau,  
Prime Minister of Canada

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau

**Re: Protection of Abortion Rights**

On behalf of the members of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC), I want to express our sincere thanks for your pledge to continue to support and protect abortion rights in Canada.

The decriminalization of abortion by the decision of the Supreme Court in 1988 was a significant step in ensuring women had the right to choose appropriate access to reproductive health care services, thus preventing back alley illegal abortions, an act of violence against women. These efforts must continue with the assurance that these cannot be withdrawn as it is an important aspect of women's health. Anything else may result in the erosion of other recognized rights.

NCWC is determined to support the availability and accessibility of abortion and other reproductive and sexual health services to women, wherever they live in our country. This includes accurate and evidenced based information on sexual and reproductive health. Those who would intervene by disseminating dishonest information, counselling etc. must be prevented from doing so in the strongest possible terms.

Canada must not take its cues from the United States but follow the example of countries such as Argentina, Ireland, and Poland in showing women around the world the way forward in ensuring "women's rights are human rights". Canada has a proud history of globally supporting women's rights. This must be strengthened and maintained in the face of the far right movement to remove abortion funding within Canada's international aid programs .

NCWC encourages your Ministers to work diligently to ensure that abortion rights are entrenched in Canada as a woman's right.

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, NCWC Justice Convenor.

C:: Honourable Marcia Ien, Minister Status of Women and Gender Equality  
Honourable Karina Gould , Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

Honourable Jean Yves Duclos, Minister of Health  
Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister  
Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Jagmeet Singh , Leader New democratic Party of Canada (NDP)  
Don Davies, NDP Health Critic  
Candice Bergan, Interim Leader Conservative Party of Canada (CPC)  
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