



NOV 10 2022

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

Dear Ms. Leson:

Thank you for providing me with a copy of your letter of September 20, 2022, addressed to the Prime Minister, concerning the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA), and Bill S-5 (the proposed Strengthening Environmental Protection for a Healthier Canada Act).

I appreciate your sharing the views of the National Council of Women of Canada on CEPA modernization. As you may know, on February 9, the Government of Canada introduced Bill S-5, the proposed Strengthening Environmental Protection for a Healthier Canada Act, in the Senate. On April 7, the Bill was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources. The Senate passed Bill S-5 with amendments to 24 clauses on June 22.

First reading in the House of Commons took place on September 28, and second reading review and debate is under way. Following second reading in the House of Commons, the Bill is expected to be referred to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development.

During the committee stage, Canadians will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the Bill. I would encourage your organization to participate and share its concerns with Standing Committee members for consideration. To follow the parliamentary developments on the Bill and find out how to engage in the process, please visit the following web pages:

- Status of Bill S-5 (44-1) at www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/s-5?view=progress; and
- How to Participate in the Work of a Committee at www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/Participate#attend.

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Environment and Climate Change Canada officials are also being mindful of the comments you have provided on behalf of the National Council of Women of Canada, and I can assure you they will be used as part of ongoing analysis and advice as the Bill continues to move through Parliament. In addition, as currently proposed in the Bill, an implementation framework to set out how that right will be considered in the administration of the Act will be developed within two years of the amendments coming into force. Interested persons will have an opportunity to participate in the development of that implementation framework.

I appreciate your following up on this important issue, and I hope that the information provided will be helpful. Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Guilbeault", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (il/lui/he/him)