

Honourable Jean Yves Duclos MP  
Minister of Health  
Government of Canada

Dear Minister Duclos

Re: Indigenous Women Tell Senate Committee of forced -coersed Sterilization

The members of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) have this week, like many others, been focused on abortion services in Canada and around the world as the United States appears to be poised to limit access to important reproductive health. It is doubly concerning to find that Indigenous and vulnerable women in Canada have suffered and been subjected to an invasive procedure without their informed consent as outlined in the Senate Human Rights Committee hearings (Globe and Mail Friday may 6th).

It is hard to understand how this practice is still being used in Canada when advanced health and human rights policies are in place.

The call to ensure that “women's rights are human rights” is echoing loud and clear as we face these alarming reports. Women must have the right to their own bodies.- period, full stop.

Our members urge you without delay to implement policy that will address this egregious practice and adhere to human rights declarations made by international bodies and the advice of experts on the issue. Canada is better than this.

Sincerely

Patricia Leson, President  
National Council of Women of Canada

Copies to: Honourable Marc Miller, Crown-Indigenous Relations  
Senator Yvonne Boyer, Senate of Canada  
Honourable Marcia Ien, Minister Status of Women, Gender Equality and Youth  
Don Davies, New Democratic Party (NDP) Health Critic  
Lynne Giroux, CEO, Native Women's Association  
Karen Vecchio, Conservative Party of Canada, Women and Gender Equality Critic

Lori Idlout, New Democratic Party (NDP) Indigenous Services Critic  
Grace Hollet, President Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)