

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

The Honourable Karina Gould
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A4

Dear Minister Gould,

Congratulations on your reelection and welcome to your new position as Minister of Families, Children and Social Development!

I am writing to you on behalf of CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women), a self-funded, non-partisan organization founded in 1919 that works to improve the status of women by promoting human rights, public education, social justice and peace in Canada and abroad. With nearly 7,000 members in 96 Clubs across Canada, every year, CFUW Clubs and the CFUW Charitable Trust donate well over \$1 million in fellowships and awards for women to pursue post-secondary education. CFUW holds special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and regularly sends a delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women.

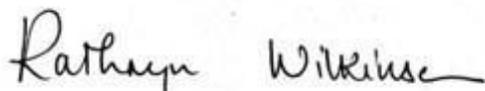
Our organization is very appreciative of the work you did as Minister of International Development, especially regarding Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy. CFUW is thrilled that you will now oversee the critical task of creating a Canada-wide system of early learning and child care. CFUW first called for a national child care strategy in 1972 and applauds the work of the federal government and your Ministry thus far for their work on making this system a reality in Canada.

We look forward to continuing to work with the federal government in the creation and implementation of a nation-wide, affordable, accessible, well-regulated, high-quality early learning and child care program. The public provision of early learning and child care, with the health and well-being of children at its core, will markedly improve women's labour market participation, children's educational development, and jumpstart Canada's economic recovery from the COVID pandemic. We would be pleased to meet with you at your earliest convenience, over video call or in-person, to discuss your early learning and child care vision as well as your plan for your tenure as Minister.

Again, congratulations on your new appointment. CFUW believes in the power of women working together and we will continue to monitor the status of bilateral agreements and the overall implementation of the federal early learning and child care plan.

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Wilkinson



CFUW National President