

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

The Honourable Marci Ien
Minister of Women, Gender Equality and Youth
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A4

Dear Minister Ien,

Congratulations on your reelection and welcome to your new position as Minister of Women, Gender Equality and Youth.

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.

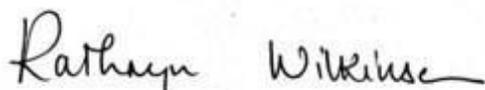
As Canada strives to recover from COVID-19, our organization looks forward to working with the federal government to help those who were hardest hit. As you know, women, particularly those who are racialized, low-income, live with disabilities, or are newcomers or refugees, have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and we believe that the key to our country's recovery lies within addressing gender inequality.

CFUW is thrilled to work with Women and Gender Equality Canada on our shared priorities of gender equality. In particular, our members are passionate about early learning and child care, eliminating gender-based violence, action on climate change, justice in long-term care, and promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples. We would be pleased to meet with you at your earliest convenience, over video call or in-person, to discuss these and other issues, 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 look forward to a pandemic recovery strategy that addresses the particular issues facing women and the benefit to involving women at all levels in the recovery plan.

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Wilkinson



CFUW National President