



Canadian Network of Women's
Shelters & Transition Houses

Réseau canadien des maisons
d'hébergement pour femmes

www.endVAW.ca
www.contreVFF.ca

November 9, 2015

Dear Minister Hajdu,

On behalf of the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Status of Women. We look forward to meeting you in the near future and working with you over the next four years.

We represent and bring to the fore the voices of the women working in shelters as well as the women and children they serve. The Network is a young organization (incorporated in November 2012) which was created by the provincial and territorial shelter associations who identified the need for a unified voice at the national level on the issue of violence against women. We focus on facilitating knowledge exchange amongst shelters across the country and helping increase awareness to ensure that policies, legislation and regulations are informed by the experiences and insights of shelters and the women and children they serve.

Shelter workers recognize that shelters will not bring an end to violence against women (VAW). As you know, VAW is a complex and multi-layered issue which requires work and collaboration on multiple tracks. We believe that work needs to happen on all of these tracks simultaneously and that work at one level needs to constantly reinforce and inform the work happening at other levels. Ending VAW will need the commitment of all levels of government, the private sector, civil society and individual citizens.

We commend the Liberal party for having included in its platform the commitment to develop and implement a comprehensive federal gender violence strategy and action plan, aligned with existing provincial strategies. In the last year and half the Network has worked with over twenty national and provincial organizations to develop a Blueprint for Canada's National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Girls. The Blueprint provides a roadmap for Canada's National Action Plan and is meant to be a starting point. Last Spring we had the pleasure of presenting the Blueprint to the Liberal Women's Caucus. We will look forward to working with you to deliver on the promise of increased investments in growing and maintaining Canada's network of shelters and transition houses.

We congratulate you again and are very optimistic that your government's Real Change agenda will be of great benefit to the lives of women across the country.

Sincerely

Lise Martin
Executive Director

