

March 19, 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of CFUW (the Canadian Federation of University Women), I would like to extend sincere congratulations on becoming Prime Minister of Canada. This is a significant achievement, and we look forward to seeing the direction you will take our country in these challenging times.

CFUW is a national, self-funded organization founded in 1919 to promote women and girls' education. Today, with 90 Clubs and over 6,700 members across Canada, we work nationally and within our communities to achieve equality and social justice. We do so by awarding over \$1 million in scholarships annually, engaging in advocacy, and providing opportunities for lifelong learning. We hold special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and recently sent over 20 delegates to attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

While at this global gathering of feminist activists, we were disheartened to learn that your newly-formed Cabinet does not include a dedicated Minister for Women and Gender Equality. We would like to take this opportunity to ask you to re-consider this decision. At a time when progress towards gender equality is stalling—and even reversing—this move sends the wrong message. The Government of Canada must continue to play a visible leadership role in advancing women's empowerment both within our nation and globally, and the position of Minister for Women and Gender Equality is critical to assuring feminist leadership and decision making.

Please read the following statement signed by CFUW and over 200 Canadian organizations on this decision: <https://www.criaw-icref.ca/statements/joint-news-release-on-minister-of-wage/>

We sincerely thank you for your consideration, and once again, congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment. We look forward to working with you and your Cabinet to build a more equitable Canada.

Yours sincerely,



Linda Sestock

National President, CFUW

Présidente nationale, FCFDU