



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA
LE CONSEIL NATIONAL DES FEMMES DU CANADA

April 13, 2016

The Hon. Mary Ann Mihychuk
Minister of Employment
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A

Dear Minister:

The National Council of Women of Canada strongly endorses Bill C-243 brought forward by Member of Parliament Mark Garretsen. Bill C-243 improves and gives needed flexibility to maternity leave so that women who need to take their leave earlier than usual can do so without suffering a loss of income and creating unnecessary hardship for their families.

This bill, which has two parts, is dedicated to strengthening maternity benefits to better reflect Canada's changing labour market. We believe it is essential that women who work in hazardous conditions should be able to access their maternity benefits earlier than normal through a more flexible employment insurance (without introducing new benefits).

We urge you to support Bill C-243 and the women it supports.

Karen Monnon Dempsey, President
National Council of Women of Canada

cc: The Hon. Patricia Hajdu
Status of Women

Founded in 1893 and incorporated in 1914 by an Act of Parliament, the National Council of Women of Canada has been the leading national voice of women for the past 123 years and has received "national historic significance" status by the federal government. NCWC is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization (NGO) representing a large number of Canadians of diverse occupations, languages, origins and customs, and reflecting a cross-section of public opinion.