

November 8, 2017

Dear Honourable Patty Hajdu,

Thank you for including the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) in the telephone technical briefing regarding your mandate letter commitment to take action to ensure that federal workplaces are free from harassment and sexual violence. Bill 65 is long over due.

The NCWC recognizes prevention of harassment and sexual violence starts in the education system, with children learning respect for each other from an early age. Though we appreciate that education is a provincial responsibility, has federal any legislation to ensure inclusion of Life Skills Education in the education system nationally been considered?

Life Skills Education for boys and girls teaches, 'skills to prevent violence, starts with learning empathy for others, communication skills and problem solving. It involves promoting healthy sexual behaviour through sex education focused on respect for self and others, communication and consent. Programs that empower youth to make positive changes in their communities show promise for preventing sexual violence.'

In recognition that sexual harassment and assault prevention must begin in early childhood, NCWC's Common Program for 2017-2019, *Eliminating Poverty Through Life Skills Education and Women's Empowerment*, stresses the importance of Life Skills Education for boys and girls from an early age.

Unfortunately, Life Skills Education has disappeared from a large number of education curriculums for almost two generations. NCWC is hoping that spearheading our Common Program across Canada will bring awareness that will help assure that all children receive Life Skills Education.

Many good wishes,

Best regards,

Sandra

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The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) has been the leading national voice of women for the past 124 years. A plaque has been erected in Allan Gardens in Toronto recognizing the establishment of NCWC as a National Historic Event. NCWC's initiatives have contributed significantly to the establishment of Canada's social welfare system, and the Council continues to work to improve the lives of women, children and society.