



March 19, 2018

Honourable Ralph Goodale MP
Minister of Public Safety
Government of Canada

Dear Minister:

Re: 2018 Summit on Guns and Gangs

On behalf of the members of the National Council of Women (NCWC) I would like to thank you for the invitation to attend the 2018 Summit on Guns and Gangs. This is certainly an important topic that must be addressed by a broad spectrum of our communities across Canada. Our representative, Monica Cullum, has commented favourably on the format for the day designed by the organizers to highlight the broad challenges identified by the speakers that we face in combating this serious issue.

Having said that, in a week celebrating International Women's Day it was disappointing to see so few women in attendance. Although no list was circulated a generous estimate would be about ten percent of those attending were women. Our concern is that women's voices will not be heard on an issue that demands women's perspective on the social, health and justice challenges needed to address this problem that affects young people between the ages of 12 and 25 and ultimately their families and communities. The violence associated with the increased prevalence of gangs and the use of firearms and other weapons by their members must be stopped.

To help deal with violence in our society the NCWC Common Program, 2017-2019, advocates Life Skills Education from an early age in schools. "It promotes the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed to bring about behavioural change that will enable children, youth and adults to: prevent conflict and **violence**." At the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York, discussions and a paper I presented advocating Life Skills Education were well received.

May I take this opportunity to wish you success in facing the on-going challenges and in developing strategies to combat this serious issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sandra Cohen-Rose'.

Sandra Cohen-Rose
President, National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)
www.ncwcanada.com
presncwc@gmail.com
[613-712-4419/ 514-512-7269](tel:613-712-4419)

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) has been the leading national voice of women for the past 125 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.