



November 21, 2018

Honourable Pablo Rodriguez
Minister of Heritage and Multiculturalism
Parliament of Canada

Re: Use of P4W – the former Prison for Women, Kingston Ontario

Dear Minister Rodriguez:

National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) sent the below letter of February 6, 2018 to your predecessor supporting the use of the building commonly known as P4W as a Museum of History of Women.

We understand the site has been sold by Queens University to a developer, and no doubt the architectural heritage will be preserved. But has the human heritage of this historic site and the women who served their time there over 66 years been considered?

Several reports, the most recent being the Arbour Report of 1996 conducted by Justice Louise Arbour highlighted the abuse, degradation and sometimes death brought on by segregation and other indignities suffered by women in its confines. Every effort must be made to ensure that this is not forgotten. It is imperative that the establishment of some physical manifestation honouring these women be included in any redevelopment of the site. Surely some space can be made available to ensure this. A Museum of Canadian Women would be a most appropriate reminder of the narrative of Canadian women, their indignities and their glories.

May I take this opportunity to offer the best wishes of the members of NCWC as you undertake your new responsibilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Sandra Cohen-Rose'.

Sandra Cohen-Rose, President
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Conseil national des femmes du Canada (CNFC)
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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.

cc: Senator Kim Pate
Bryan Paterson, Mayor Kingston Ontario
Professors Lisa Guenther and Jackie Davies - Queens University/P4W Memorial Collective
Elizabeth Renzetti, Globe and Mail