



December 7, 2018

Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor  
Minister of Health  
Parliament of Canada

Re: Access to Mifegymiso (Brand name in Canada for combination of medications  
Mifepristone and Misoprostol)

Dear Minister Petitpas Taylor:

In 2014 the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopted policy supporting the introduction of the abortion drug mifepristone in Canada. Adoption of this policy was based on it being available across Canada. This would respect a woman's right to choose.

It is now disappointing to hear that more than two years after mifepristone was approved, statistics compiled by IQ-VIA reveal it is not available across Canada. Even in some urban areas data shows the pill is not being prescribed. In remote/rural areas it is not even available.

Why are women being challenged to access mifepristone from family doctors and to having prescriptions filled by local pharmacies? Timely access must be provided. Women's health is at stake.

Across Canada barriers to its access must be removed. Some women who seek mifepristone are being challenged by family doctors who are inadequately trained. In some cases the legislated guidelines requiring an ultra sound becomes a barrier in terms of local availability, and delayed appointments to receive one within the nine weeks in which the drug can be taken.

Provincial policies that negatively impact accessibility must be reviewed and changed as necessary.

A proactive approach by all parties is critical. Access must be ensured across the country as intended when the drug was introduced.

Sincerely,

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

Sandra Cohen-Rose  
President, National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)  
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 Honourable Maryam Monsef, Status of Women Canada  
Jeff Sisler, Executive Director Professional Development, College of Family Physicians of Canada