

December 20, 2019

The Honourable Bill Blair
Minister of Public Safety

Dear Minister Blair

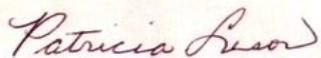
The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) is encouraged by your resolve to address the very important issues of gun violence and violence against women as reported by one of our members, Monica Cullum, who had a most interesting and informative discussion with you this past September in Ottawa at the National Memorial for Police and Peace Officers.

December 6, 2019, Canada's National Day of Remembrance marked thirty years since fourteen women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal were murdered – murdered because they were women. Three decades later, the effects of this tragedy continue to be felt, and women remain targets because of their gender, facing disproportional levels of violence. It is devastating to note that femicide numbers have not decreased. According to the Canadian Femicide Observatory (CFOJA), at least 118 women and girls have been murdered, and many others reported missing. Firearms were used in 36% of the cases. The Commission into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls file gives credence to the fact that Canada simply must do better in enacting concrete solutions to eliminate all forms of gender specific violence.

It is our hope that finally you will implement restrictive policies on weapons as was outlined in the December 5th Speech from the Throne. We urge you to especially take immediate action to outlaw the Ruger Mini-14 and all military style weapons along with placing further restrictions on the manufacture, sale, possession, and storage of handguns.

Thank you for your dedication to ensuring the safety of all Canadian citizens, particularly the most vulnerable, our women and girls.

Sincerely



Patricia Leson, President
National Council of Women of Canada

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