

Eliminating Ministry for Women and Gender Equality and Youth

The removal of the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth (WAGE) from Canada's new cabinet marks a concerning step backward for gender equality. This decision undermines decades of progress and deprioritizes critical issues affecting women, girls, marginalized communities, and youth. Even in a streamlined cabinet, the exclusion of this role signals a troubling lack of commitment to advancing gender rights and addressing systemic inequalities.

This decision not only reflects a global trend of rolling back protections for women's rights but also diminishes Canada's standing as a leader in gender equality advocacy. It directly contradicts Canada's obligations as a signatory to key international frameworks, such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Additionally, removing this portfolio undermines young feminists by eliminating a crucial platform for advocacy and collaboration.

Canada's leadership on gender equality has long been recognized, but this move conveys the opposite—a step away from progress and a disregard for the pressing challenges that women, girls, and youth face. Reinstating dedicated leadership on these issues is essential to ensuring Canada honours its commitments and continues working toward a more equitable and inclusive society.