



Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism)

Ministre des Femmes et de l'Égalité des genres et secrétaire d'État (Petites Entreprises et Tourisme)

December 10, 2025

Penny Rankin
President, National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)
presncwc@gmail.com

Dear Penny Rankin,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Right Honourable Prime Minister Carney, dated October 10, 2025, regarding budget reductions to Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE). His office shared your letter with mine. I appreciate your engagement and the thoughtful concerns that you shared.

Our government remains committed to building an economy that works for everyone. Gender equality is not only a matter of fairness – it is foundational to Canada's resilience, prosperity, and unity. Ensuring that women, gender-diverse persons, and 2SLGBTQI+ communities can fully participate in and benefit from Canada's progress is critical to meeting the today's challenges and securing a better future for all.

Through [Budget 2025](#), we announced new, stable and ongoing funding to WAGE. We are investing \$660.5 million over five years and \$132.1 million ongoing to ensure sustained progress toward equality and safety for women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people. These new investments include:

- \$382.5 million over five years, starting in 2026-27, with \$76.5 million ongoing to Advancing Women's Equality;
- \$54.6 million over five years, starting in 2026-27, with \$10.9 million ongoing, to support 2SLGBTQI+ communities. This includes \$7.5 million over five years, with \$1.5 million ongoing, for Pride Security; and,
- \$223.4 million over five years, starting in 2026-27, with \$44.7 million ongoing, to strengthen federal action in response to gender-based violence in support for specific populations who have experienced such violence. This includes Indigenous women and underserved populations. This investment will also enable ongoing funding for crisis hotlines.

Budget 2025 also reaffirms our government's commitment to continue working with provinces and territories to end gender-based violence—including through existing bilateral agreements that enable jurisdictions to fund essential prevention services and direct support for survivors.

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Together, the historic investments in Budget 2025 will help ensure that every community benefits from Canada's economic growth and contribute to building the strongest economy in the G7. Community organizations like yours play a vital role in making this vision a reality. Your message underscores the importance of investing in social infrastructure that supports safety, dignity, and opportunity for all.

Thank you again for your advocacy and for the important work you do. I look forward to continued collaboration to ensure Canada remains a global leader in advancing gender equality.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Rechie Valdez, P.C., M.P.

Cc:

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada - PM@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Finance and National Revenue - dcu-ucm@fin.gc.ca