



## Letter of Support for Bill S-209

May 11, 2026

The Honourable Rosemarie Falk, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear MP Falk,

On behalf of the National Council of Women of Canada, I wish to express our strong support for Bill S-209, *An Act to restrict young persons' online access to pornographic material*, along with our commitment to supporting your stewarding of this bill through the House of Commons.

The National Council of Women of Canada is firmly committed to advancing measures that protect the dignity, equality, and safety of women and girls. The preamble and purpose clauses of Bill S-209 recognize that the online availability of degrading sexually explicit material, including material depicting sexual violence, is associated with serious harms, including the reinforcement of gender stereotypes and the development of attitudes favourable to harassment and violence, particularly against women. Those concerns are not abstract. They go to the heart of whether a society is willing to permit digital spaces to shape children and youth through exposure to content that presents women as commodities and that normalizes violence in intimacy.

Support for this bill also reflects a preventive responsibility to the next generation. By taking meaningful steps to restrict young persons' access to harmful pornographic material online, Parliament can help reduce the risk that children and adolescents grow up in an environment where sexual aggression is trivialized, coercion is normalized, and mutual respect is displaced by scripts of dominance, humiliation, and dehumanization. This legislation matters not only because the damage and harm are well documented in the bill's own public-health rationale, but because its implementation would help build a safer cultural environment for young people and a more equal one for women and girls.

The National Council of Women of Canada also notes that Bill S-209 includes privacy-related safeguards respecting prescribed age-verification and age-estimation methods, including requirements aimed at limiting data collection, protecting personal information, and destroying such information once verification or estimation is complete. These

provisions are important in showing that child protection and privacy protection must advance together.

Please accept our sincere respect and encouragement as this bill is steered through the House of Commons. Your leadership on this issue is both timely and an important step to protect children, uphold the dignity of women and girls, and challenge the normalization of violence and degradation in sexualized online content.

Yours sincerely,

Penny Rankin  
President

Michelle Abel  
VP Children and Youth

CC. Senator Julie Miville Duchêne

*Mission Statement To empower all women to work together towards improving the quality of life for women, families, and society through a forum of member organizations and individuals.*