



Women Leading Change

The Honourable Rechie Valdez, PC, M.P.,
Minister of Women and Gender Equality

May 14th, 2025

Dear Minister Valdez,

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Ontario Council, a provincial organization with 48 clubs across Ontario and nearly 4,700 members. CFUW Ontario Council is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit, non-partisan women's organization whose members seek to provide life-long learning, to improve public policy and to advocate for gender equality and for the rights of women and girls. We are an associate of the national organisation, CFUW, which represents not only Ontario Clubs but Clubs across the country with approximately 6,700 members in total.

CFUW Ontario Council wishes to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) (as well as Secretary of State for Small Business and Tourism) in this new ruling Liberal government. WAGE is a key federal portfolio, and we look forward to your role in the advancement of women's rights and the rights of gender non-conforming people.

Each year, CFUW delegates attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. It is here that we are reminded that Canada is lauded as a beacon for women's rights in the global community (even though we still have a very long way to go for all its citizens to be proclaimed 'equal'). Because of this stature and because it is the only moral and ethical approach to civil society, Canada has a duty to uphold and further women's rights, not just here at home but across all nation states. At a time when the US and other countries are rolling back these rights, Canada must ensure that hard-fought feminist battles are not dismissed, nor the outcomes nullified. We must continue to ensure that these rights, along with our economy and sovereignty, even in the short term, do not suffer. Dedicated feminist leadership such as that which you will bring to the table must ensure accountability to these principles and that the attention that Canada has rightly given to safeguarding equality for all does not waiver even in light of its other struggles.

Thank you for stepping forward to serve your country, not only as an M.P. but now as a leader in women's and human rights. We anticipate your successful tenure in the position of Minister of Women and Gender Equality.

Kindest regards,

Sandra Shaw

President (2024-2026), CFUW Ontario Council



