



Canadian Network of Women's  
Shelters & Transition Houses

Réseau canadien des maisons  
d'hébergement pour femmes

[www.endVAW.ca](http://www.endVAW.ca)  
[www.contreVFF.ca](http://www.contreVFF.ca)

The Honourable Maryam Monsef  
Minister of Status of Women  
22 Eddy Street, 10th Floor  
Gatineau, QC

January 13, 2017

Dear Minister Monsef:

On behalf of the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses, and as a member of the Advisory Council for the Gender-Based Violence Strategy, I congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Status of Women. Status of Women Canada's current agenda is at an exciting and crucial point. I look forward to working with you in improving the lives of women across the country.

We work as a unified voice for systemic change to end violence against women, while providing leadership for collaboration and knowledge exchange among shelters and transition houses across the country. We focus on ensuring that policies, legislation, and regulations are informed by the experiences and insights of shelters and the women and children they serve, on facilitating knowledge exchange amongst shelters across the country, and on increasing general awareness on the issue of violence against women.

Shelter workers recognize that shelters will not end violence against women (VAW). As you know, VAW is a complex and multi-layered issue that requires work and collaboration on multiple tracks. We believe that work needs to happen on all of these tracks simultaneously, and that work at one level needs to constantly reinforce and inform the work happening at other levels. Ending VAW requires the commitment of all levels of government, the private sector, civil society, and individual citizens.

We look forward to working with you to deliver on the promise of increased investments in growing and maintaining Canada's network of shelters and transition houses.

We congratulate you again and look forward to meeting you in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Lise Martin  
Executive Director

