

**VIA EMAIL**

April 11, 2017

Hon. Mélanie Joly  
Minister of Canadian Heritage  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Joly:

**Re: Reinstatement of the Court Challenges Program**

Thank you very much for your reply to our March 13, 2017 letter regarding the reinstatement of the Court Challenges Program.

We believe there may have been a misunderstanding as to the purpose of our letter. While your reply addresses the expansion of the CCP to include other sections of the *Charter*, our letter did not take issue with that aspect of the modernization of the CCP. Rather, we asked that the CCP be expanded to also include section 35 of the *Constitutional Act, 1982*.

We further requested that the CCP's historic mandate be explicitly reaffirmed. We argued this was essential in order to ensure that CCP funding could not be used to support section 2, 3 and 7 cases that undermined, rather than reinforced, equality and access to justice for disadvantaged groups and official-language minority communities.

Given your joint responsibility with the Justice Minister for the reinstatement of the CCP, we would like to meet with you and Minister Wilson-Raybould at your earliest possible convenience, to discuss the concerns expressed by the 80 local, provincial and national organisations that signed our letter.

Yours sincerely,



Martha Jackman, Co-Chair of the National Steering Committee  
Amy Salyzyn, Co-Chair of the National Steering Committee  
National Association of Women and the Law



Jewelless Smith, Chairperson

Anne Levesque, Chair of the Human Rights Committee

Council of Canadians with Disabilities

On behalf of:

Alex Neve, Secretary General  
Amnesty International Canada

Béatrice Vaugrante, General Director  
Amnistie internationale Canada francophone

Koren Lightning-Earle, President  
Indigenous Bar Association

Pauline Worsfold, President  
Canadian Health Coalition

Nicole Filion, Coordinator  
Ligue des droits et libertés

Sandra Noe, President  
Federation of Muslim Women

Ann Decter, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy  
YWCA Canada

National Association of Women and the Law / L'association Nationale Femmes et Droit

[www.nawl.ca](http://www.nawl.ca) / [www.anfd.ca](http://www.anfd.ca)

rue 2339 Ogilvie Road – PO Box 46008

Gloucester, ON

K1J 9M7

Rushdia Mehreen, Coordinator  
Voices-Voix

Brent Patterson, Political Director  
Council of Canadians

Hailee Morrison, Executive Director  
Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)

Harriett McLachlan, President  
Canada Without Poverty

Vincent Calderhead, Board member  
Charter Committee on Poverty Issues

Mitchell Goldberg, President  
Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers

Rita Morbia, Executive Director  
Inter Pares

Jennifer Henry, Executive Director  
KAIROS

Mélanie Sarazin, President  
Fédération des femmes du Québec

Carmela Hutchison, President  
DisAbled Women's Network (DAWN) Canada

Diana Majury, President  
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

National Association of Women and the Law / L'association Nationale Femmes et Droit

[www.nawl.ca](http://www.nawl.ca) / [www.anfd.ca](http://www.anfd.ca)  
rue 2339 Ogilvie Road – PO Box 46008  
Gloucester, ON  
K1J 9M7

Morna Ballantyne, Executive Director  
Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada

Bruce Porter, Executive Director  
Social Rights Advocacy Centre

Alia Hogben, Executive Director  
Canadian Council of Muslim Women

Maïra Martin, General Director  
Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes

Angela Cameron, Chair of the Steering Committee  
Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action

Amanda Dale, Executive Director  
Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic

Annabel Webb, Co-Founder and Chair, Board of Directors  
Tracey McIntosh, Executive Coordinator  
Justice for Girls

Rafia Haniff-Cleofas, Chair  
Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities

Elizabeth Dandy, Director, Equality Branch  
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

Hodan Ahmed, Liaison Officer  
Canadian Association of Muslim Women in Law (CAMWL)

Tim McSorley, National Coordinator  
International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group

Shalini Konanur, Executive Director  
South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario

Avvy Yao-Yao Go, Clinic Director  
Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic

Gwen Brodsky, Director  
Poverty and Human Rights Centre

Louisa Russell, Collective member  
Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

Mohamed Boudjenane, Interim President  
Canadian Arab Federation

Irene Tsepnopoulos-Elhaimer, Executive Director  
Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW) Rape Crisis Centre

Susan Harney, Chairperson  
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

Tannis Braithwaite, Executive Director  
BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre

Margaret Rao, President  
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

Sunny Marriner, Executive Director  
Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre

Nathalie Goulet, Director  
Conseil d'intervention pour l'accès des femmes au travail (CIAFT)

Ken Neumann, National Director for Canada  
The United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service  
Workers International Union

Robert Lattanzio, Executive Director  
ARCH Disability Law Centre

Brendan Wong, President  
Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers (Ontario)

Lise Martin, Executive Director  
Women's Shelters Canada

Richard Elliott, Executive Director  
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

Nigel Barriffe, Board Chair  
Urban Alliance on Race Relations

Kathleen Ruff, Director  
RightOnCanada.ca

Gail Davidson, Executive Director  
Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

Donna Franey, Executive Director  
Dalhousie Legal Aid Service

Jeremy Dias, Director  
Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity

National Association of Women and the Law / L'association Nationale Femmes et Droit

[www.nawl.ca](http://www.nawl.ca) / [www.anfd.ca](http://www.anfd.ca)

rue 2339 Ogilvie Road – PO Box 46008

Gloucester, ON

K1J 9M7

Susan Bazilli, Director  
International Women's Rights Project

Stefanie Lomatski, Coordinator  
Sexual Assault Network Ottawa

Ben McDonald, Spokesperson  
Alternatives North

Shaun Fluker, Executive Director  
Public Interest Law Clinic – University of Calgary Faculty of Law

Jennifer Maccarone, President  
Quebec English School Boards Association

Natasha Bakht, English Editor  
Emmanuelle Bernheim, French Editor  
Canadian Journal of Women and the Law

Elisabeth Ballermann, Secretary-Treasurer  
National Union of Public and General Employees

Sandeep Prasad, Executive Director  
Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights

Ryan Peck, Executive Director  
HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO)

John McKinnon, Director  
Injured Workers' Consultants Community Legal Clinic

Natalie Drolet, Executive Director  
West Coast Domestic Workers' Association

Michael Kerr, Co-ordinator  
Colour of Poverty/Colour of Change Network

Cheryl Milne, Executive Director  
David Asper Centre for Constitutional Rights

Debbie Douglas, Executive Director  
Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

Nicole Pietsch, Coordinator  
Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC)

Ann Batisse, Executive Director  
Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group

Vrinda Narain, Member of the Executive Committee  
South Asian Women's Community Centre

Lana Robinson, Clerk  
Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

Kenneth Hale, Director of Advocacy and Legal Services  
Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO)

Cindy Hanson, President  
Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women

Mary Marrone, Director of Advocacy & Legal Services  
Income Security Advocacy Centre

Alem Bharmal, General Director  
Community Legal Assistance Society



National Association of Women and the Law / L'association Nationale Femmes et Droit

[www.nawl.ca](http://www.nawl.ca) / [www.anfd.ca](http://www.anfd.ca)

rue 2339 Ogilvie Road – PO Box 46008

Gloucester, ON

K1J 9M7

Evelyn Calugay, Coordinator  
PINAY

Vincent Greason, Coordinator  
Table ronde des OVEP de l'Outaouais (TROVEPO)

Samer Muscati, Director  
International Human Rights Program, University of Toronto

Rob Dagleish, Acting Executive Minister  
The United Church of Canada

c.c. Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould; Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau