



Jill Dunlop, MPP Simcoe North
Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues
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December 6, 2019

Dear Minister,

On this special day of the commemoration of the fourteen young women murdered at École Polytechnique thirty years ago, and, as well, the release of the study #CallItFemicide¹, we write to you to both thank you for your work with human trafficking, and to challenge to still do more.

First we would like to thank you for meeting with members of CFUW Orillia. We are pleased to learn more about your work, in particular human trafficking. This has been a concern for us at the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) for many years. We are grateful to you and your government for extending the funding announced as a new annual commitment. As well we thank you for taking the time to discuss the very important issue with them.

As a challenge, we are, and will always be, concerned about violence against women and girls. #CallItFemicide does point out that Ontario, by population, had a death rate below the national average, but still 41 have died!

Sexual assault centres, the front line services dealing violence and violence prevention, are overwhelmed, with waiting lists for services – some many months long – at a time when a woman is feeling shaken and vulnerable. With budget negotiations happening for the 2020 budget, we would request that the sexual assault centres receive the additional funding that they require to offer the services needed. While we recognize that funding is under the auspices of the Attorney General, we would hope that you, as Minister responsible for women's issues, would have some influence.

CFUW Ontario Council is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit organization with 49 clubs across the province, which is affiliated with CFUW, a national non-partisan organization with clubs in all Canadian provinces.

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¹ <https://femicideincanada.ca/callitfemicide2019.pdf> Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability