

**Ministry of Children,
Community and Social
Services**

**Ministère des Services à
l'enfance et des Services
sociaux et communautaires**

Minister's Office

Bureau du Ministre

438 University Avenue
7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1N3

438, avenue University
7^e étage
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1N3

Tel.: (416) 325-5225

Fax: (416) 325-5240

Tél. : (416) 325-5225

Télé. : (416) 325-5240



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Ms. Sandra Thomson
President
CFUW Ontario Council
president.cfuwontario@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Thomson:

Thank you for writing to share your support of our government's efforts to support victims of human trafficking. It was a pleasure to meet with members of CFUW Orillia to discuss this important issue.

It is imperative that women and girls live free from violence, especially in their own homes and communities. Human trafficking is a crisis that robs the safety, livelihood and dignity of those who are being exploited and abused. It is happening across the province in all communities and all levels of society. Our government is taking action against this heinous crime.

Ontario is committed to strengthening access to services needed to support victims of human trafficking and holding offenders accountable. That is why, as a first priority, we are investing \$20 million annually for anti-human trafficking initiatives. This will support prevention and specialized services for victims of human trafficking, law enforcement initiatives, victim services and justice sector supports. The investment will help victims access wraparound services, assist with coordination across ministries and police forces and provide police training to help identify and arrest traffickers and support victims.

Ontario is also developing and implementing a new anti-human trafficking strategy, which I will co-lead with my colleague the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General. This strategy will focus on continuing to help victims, raising awareness, prevention efforts and holding offenders accountable.

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I recently met with my national counterparts at the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women's meeting, where we agreed to work together to explore opportunities to host a national conference, summit or expert panel to address human trafficking. As well, Canada and Ontario agreed to continue discussing shared priorities for the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking launched in September 2019. The Honourable Maryam Monsef, federal Minister for Women and Gender Equality, and I are co-chairing a new human trafficking task team that will foster collaboration with Indigenous leaders, as well as the other provincial, territorial and federal governments.

In addition, the ministry is investing in violence prevention and community services that support women and their dependents, with more than \$166 million going toward supports for survivors and violence prevention initiatives. Ontario funds services including emergency shelters, counselling, 24-hour crisis lines, safety planning, and transitional and housing supports. We have boosted support for rural frontline agencies to increase collaboration and reduce geographic and transportation barriers. The ministry also provides funding to 18 Indigenous agencies that provide emergency shelter, counselling, child witness programs and other supports, both on and off-reserve.

I have shared your letter with the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General, and the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General, for their awareness. Thank you again for writing and for your support.

Sincerely,

Jill Dunlop
Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

c: The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General