



Statement from the National Council of Women of Canada

In Support of the National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL)

After signing onto CEDAW during the last election, the Prime Minister has reneged on this commitment and abrogated his responsibilities to women and to gender equality. Results of all the major cuts and changes that were made last fall to Status of Women Canada and to other major programs and initiatives have impacted severely on women.

The National Association of Women and the Law is one of the groups which has had their funding cut. NAWL's work, which has focused on researching legislation to promote equality for Canadian women, has been instrumental in achieving the major strides to equality made for women ever since NAWL was founded. Their expertise and knowledge has assisted governments in Canada in the implementation of the Articles of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

What this government terms "women's issues" are really part of a much larger dynamic that impacts on everyone and the country as a whole. **That is what this government must learn.**

No matter how severe the cuts, equality-seeking women will not retreat into a feminist ghetto never to be heard from again. **That is what this government needs to understand.**

Karen Dempsey, President
National Council of Women of Canada
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