



March 16, 2011

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P./C.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Re: Cluster Munitions

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Since 1996 the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) has expressed its approval for Canada's unilateral ban on the use, production and export of anti-personnel land mines; and, since 2008 NCWC has adopted as policy that the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of Cluster Munitions be ended and relief be provided for affected communities. We wrote to the Government of Canada in November 2008 to take a lead role on the cluster munitions issue as it did with the treaty banning land mines eleven years prior.

We are writing, once again, to urge the Government to

- participate actively in the current process to ban the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of cluster bombs;
- in this regard, to support an instrument that is strong, clear, and easily implemented;
- to conclude, sign on and ratify an international treaty that will prohibit Cluster Munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians; and
- to provide financial, medical and rehabilitation relief for those civilians and communities affected by Cluster Munitions.

We look forward to the Government's response indicating Canada's lead role in international actions on abating the harm caused by Cluster Munitions.

Sincerely,

Mary Scott
President, NCWC

CC Hon. Lawrence Cannon, Minister Foreign Affairs

(Prepared by Rashmi Bhat, VP)

The National Council of Women of Canada is a federation composed of Local Councils, Provincial Councils, as well as National, Provincial and Local Organizations. Founded in 1893, it was incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1914 and has been designated by the Government of Canada as being of national historic significance for its role in Canadian women's history. For more information, consult our web site at www.ncwc.ca or contact our national office at #506, 251 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1X3.