

Dear Honourable Mr./Ms.

I urge you to support Bill C-581 the Status of Women Canada Act introduced by Ms. Irene Mathyssen MP, London, Fanshawe in the House of Commons this fall.

The first reading of Bill C-581 took place on October 18, 2010. Subsequent readings of the bill will take place in the coming months.

Bill C-581 calls for a binding legislative mandate for Status of Women Canada that would allow it to work with civil society, government and other players to address systemic inequality through advocacy, research, gender-based analysis and ongoing reviews of the status of women in Canada.

Bill C-581 would end use of the Status of Women Canada to promote a political agenda.

It would enshrine the use of the office as well as the role and mandate of Status of Women Canada and give it clear direction to work in the future to help address pay inequality, the feminization of poverty, violence against women and other important issues in keeping with Canada's domestic and international obligations to address women's inequality.

Current federal funding policy has set back the women's movement in its work towards equality, by denying repeated calls for universal child care, undermining pay equity and the Canada Pension Plan and curtailing access to important and current research and advocacy.

The decisions (since the 2006 Federal Budget) to cut funding to organizations working in the areas of feminist research and advocacy resulted in the denial of funds to more than 20 organizations doing research and advocacy into women's equality rights as well as the closure of Status of Women Offices across the country where women could access services. These actions have seriously undermined the women's movements' capacity to defend equality and human rights in Canada.

On behalf of all women in Canada, I urge you to support Bill C-581 to ensure – as a matter of urgency – it becomes law in Canada.

Yours sincerely,

Name  
Address  
City, Province  
Postal Code