



November 2, 2021

The Honourable David Lametti
Minister of Justice
Attorney General of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Lametti,

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW), I would like to extend our sincere congratulations on your re-election and reappointment to Minister of Justice for the Government of Canada.

Throughout your government's previous mandates, CASW has been highly supportive of several significant initiatives that support people in Canada to live with dignity and respect. Namely, CASW was appreciative of Bill C-78, the *Divorce Act*, that promotes the best interests of the child and appropriately addresses family violence. As well, CASW welcomed the Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada (MMIWG) and remains committed to supporting the Government of Canada in implementing the recommendations of the MMIWG report.

CASW was also supportive of the MAiD legislation and is committed to bringing forward the perspectives of the social workers to support its ongoing review.

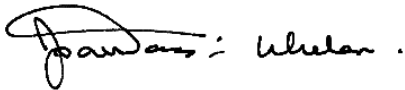
CASW also was extremely supportive of your government's initiatives that facilitated the opening of new safe injection sites, the renewal of harm reduction as a pillar in the Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy, and the adoption of the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act. Following this strong track record, CASW encourages the Government to broaden its support for a public health approach to substance use and mental health.

As such, CASW strongly urges the Government of Canada to continue its evidenced based, public health approach by introducing legislation to [decriminalize the personal use of psychoactive substances](#), [decriminalize sex work](#) and [remove existing mandatory minimums](#) sentences. Each of these bold initiatives are grounded in evidence of harm reduction and will, combined with coordinated investments in the social determinants of health, save lives.

Finally, CASW was pleased to see the campaign promise to reintroduce legislation to ban conversion therapy for all ages in Canada within the first 100 days of your mandate. There is no place for conversion therapy and related practices in Canada.

There is much work to be done as we begin charting a new course in the wake of COVID-19, but we are hopeful that, with your leadership, Canada can look beyond just recovery, but to a bold, just, and novel future. We look forward to the forthcoming mandate letters, and to supporting your work and the Government of Canada more broadly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan Davis-Whelan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joan Davis-Whelan, MSW, RSW
President, CASW