



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
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July 26, 2017

Via email: Marie-Claude.Bibeau@international.gc.ca

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of International Development and La Francophonie
International Development
Place du Centre, 200 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, QC K1A 0G4

Dear Minister:

Re: Canada's new feminist international assistance policy

I am writing on behalf of the International Initiatives Committee of the Canadian Bar Association (CBAII) to congratulate the Government of Canada on the new feminist international assistance policy. We commend your government for its renewed focus on inclusive governance and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, both of which have been identified as key action areas in the new policy.

The CBA is a national association of over 36,000 lawyers, judges, law students, notaries and law professors. Among our primary objectives are improvement in the law and the administration of justice, and promoting the rule of law and fair justice systems in Canada and internationally. The CBA membership represents the unique blend of experience in Canada's bijuridical legal system (common and civil law) and a rights-based approach to public policy, legislative development and access to justice. The CBA has engaged in international development work for over 25 years to strengthen the rule of law and has contributed to Canada's global leadership position on these issues.

We share your view that the empowerment and promotion of the rights of women and girls is essential to achieving respect for human rights and is a matter of justice. Ensuring that inclusive governance, democracy, human rights and the rule of law are recognized as priority action areas of the new policy will help address many of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. With this new international assistance policy, Canada is well positioned to bring its experience and knowledge to support the poorest and most vulnerable by addressing the root causes of inequality. This includes greater support for access to justice, strengthening governance institutions and law reform.

We would welcome the opportunity for further dialogue on implementation of Canada's new international assistance policy and work to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We request a meeting with you or your staff to discuss how CBAIL can work with Global Affairs Canada in your renewed commitment and expanded role in inclusive governance and gender equality.

We look forward to Canada's continuing leadership role on the world stage to advance the promotion and respect for the rule of law and gender equality.

Yours truly,

(original letter signed by Tamra L. Thomson for Daphne E. Dumont)

Daphne E. Dumont, Q.C.
Chair, CBA International Initiatives Committee