

July 3, 2020 1:50 pm

Dear Ms. Gauthier,

With all due respect, an independent public inquiry using a feminist lens into the April 18-19 mass shooting that took place in Nova Scotia must become a primary concern for WAGE, a department tasked with advancing women's equality. A history of perpetrating violence against women is very much a part of the pattern of multiple-victim killings in which misogyny leading to femicide is a key component of the violence. Please see this tweet by the Canadian Femicide Observatory.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2020-mass-shootings-domestic-violence-connection/>

We are asking Minister Monsef to encourage Minister Blair to call immediately for an independent public inquiry with a feminist lens as called for by concerned women's organizations, Nova Scotia Senators, and family members of those murdered in the mass shooting.

We look forward to a response from Minister Monsef.

Sincerely,

Lucille Harper
on behalf of Nova Scotia Feminists Fighting Femicide

cc Lenore Zann MP Cumberland Colchester
Senator Mary Coyle

On Thu, Jul 2, 2020 at 3:56 PM Correspondance / Correspondence (FEGC/WAGE)
<CFC.Correspondance-Correspondence.SWC@cfc-swc.gc.ca> wrote:

Dear Lucille Harper:

I acknowledge receipt of your correspondence to the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development. I regret the delay of responding.

Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) is a center of expertise with a mandate to advance women and gender equality, including equality with respect to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Creation of the sort of broad public inquiry you request is outside Minister Monsef's mandate.

I regret that the WAGE cannot become involved in matters outside its mandate. The Honorable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, is responsible for the RCMP. I note that you have already been in contact with his office. I will let them reply to your correspondence.

The situation surrounding COVID-19 is evolving quickly. The department will continue to deliver for the Canadians who are counting on us, both to respond to the current situation and to achieve our long-term goals.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Julie Gauthier

Manager, Briefing and Correspondence Unit

Corporate Secretariat

Women and Gender Equality Canada

cc: The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness