



CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

June 23, 2025

The Honourable Richie Valdez P.C., M.P.
Minister of Women and Gender Equality
Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

Dear Minister Valdez:

On behalf of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), I would like to congratulate you on becoming Minister of Women and Gender Equality. As you move forward with your Ministerial responsibilities, the CPA believes that from a policy perspective the protection of women's rights and gender equality is a non-negotiable prerequisite to maintaining and enhancing our overall quality of life and standard of living.

We look forward to working with you in standing up for the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, confronting systemic barriers and creating opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, Black Canadians and racialized communities, and working to end gender-based violence. In addressing these issues, the federal government can more effectively align government policies that improve our collective mental health and provide more opportunities for Canadians to share in a productive, innovative and thriving economy.

The CPA is the national voice for the science, practice and education of psychology in the service of the health and welfare of Canadians. With more than 7,000 members, the CPA is Canada's largest association for psychology and represents psychologists in the public and private sector, university educators and researchers, as well as students. Further, we are comprised of 35 Sections which represent different sub-areas of psychology – one of those Sections being the Section for Women and Psychology. Psychologists are the country's largest group of regulated and specialized mental health providers, with additional expertise in psychological science, making our profession a key resource for the mental health treatment Canadians need and the science to address key issues our society is facing.

As you settle into your new role, the CPA would be pleased to meet with you to discuss how we can address, protect, and advance women's rights and gender equality in Canada.

In closing, I wish you the very best in meeting the challenges that lay before us and look forward to working with you to improve our collective mental and behavioural health – our success as a country depends on it. I can be reached at executiveoffice@cpa.ca.

Sincerely,

Lisa Votta-Bleeker, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

1101 promenade
Prince of Wales Drive
Suite #230
Ottawa, Ontario,
K2C 3W7
613.237.2144
1.888.472.0657

Email/Courriel:
cpa@cpa.ca
cpa.ca