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voice@acws.ca www.acws.ca

Dear Minister Nixon,

I'm writing to extend congratulations on your new role as Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services. I have no doubt that your background and experience will make you a strong advocate for the vulnerable populations you serve through this important portfolio.

As the executive director of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, I'm looking forward to working with you on behalf of our 39 members who operate over 50 shelters across the province for women, their children, and seniors facing domestic abuse – and 2 shelters who specifically support seniors. I know that you share the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters' conviction that our province should be a safe place for all Albertans to live, and we look forward to collaborating with your office to advance our goal of a world free from violence and abuse.

ACWS brings close to four decades of experience and knowledge to serve our sector. We advocate for members and work with them to end domestic violence through culture-shifting violence prevention programs, collective data and research, and front-line training. With support from ACWS, Alberta shelters are helping to provide safety, support families, and improve communities.

I would like to share with you a copy of ACWS' report on <u>advancing the National Action Plan to end gender-based violence in Alberta.</u> Thank you for your attention to these important issues – I would be grateful if we could schedule a meeting to talk about some of the challenges facing our sector.

Best regards,

Jan Reimer, Executive Director

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