

DATE, 2023

To:

**The Honourable** MP, Senator

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K1A 0A6

**Re:** BILL C-226 - An Act respecting the development of a national strategy to assess, prevent and address environmental racism and to advance environmental justice.

Dear MP/Senator,

I am writing on behalf of CFUW\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, with more than \_\_\_ members in [location]. We are an affiliate of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), a non-partisan, self-funded organization comprised of 95 CFUW Clubs and over 6600 members, located in every province across Canada. Since its founding in 1919, CFUW has worked to improve the status of women, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice, and peace.  CFUW, with its member Clubs, awards annually over $1M in scholarships, bursaries and fellowships to help women and girls pursue post-secondary education. We hold special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and belong to the Education Committee of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

At our Annual General Meetings, we consider policy resolutions and have approved several pertaining to the Environment. Most notably, these two resolutions are directly related to the aforementioned Bill C-226 addressing environmental racism and advancing environmental justice.

In 2022, our voting body adopted policy stating that **A Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment is a Human Right**, which was adopted by the UN Human Rights Council (RES 48/13 in 2021). Our policy is as follows:

* We urge the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to enable constitutional recognition that “A Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment is a Human Right.”
* We urge the federal government to entrench “A Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment is a Human Right.” In legislation, regulatory frameworks and other public policy, and to fund oversight and other programs at effective levels.
* We urge the federal government to develop and implement awareness-raising campaigns with provincial, territorial and municipal governments and educational institutions to inform Canadians that “A Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment is a Human Right.” Is a newly recognized human right.

Further, in 2009, our voting body adopted policy stating on **Protecting the Health of Canadians by Reducing Environmental Toxins:**

* We urge the Government of Canada [and provincial, territorial and municipal governments] to protect the health of Canadians by reducing their exposure to environmental toxins through measures that:
  + strengthen and enforce regulations that require all those who produce, use, distribute, and/or disseminate toxic or potentially toxic materials to show due diligence to protection of human health and the environment;
  + require producers/importers to provide evidence to regulatory authorities that a product will not threaten health nor the environment before it can be approved for import and use in Canada; that this evidence meets Canadian and international standards; that precautionary decision-making is applied throughout the process;
  + promote and require producer responsibility at every stage of product life, including waste management during manufacture, packaging, distribution and final product disposal;
  + enhance monitoring programs and research into effective control of the distribution, dissemination, disposal and offshore discharge of environmental toxins; and
  + promote public awareness and education, and support the development and use of safe alternatives.

**As Bill C-226 moves to its third reading** and then to the Senate, we hope that you will lend your support to the substance of the Bill and ensure that it succeeds to become an Act of Parliament. It would make a real difference in the lives of many rural communities and disadvantaged communities who are struggling with drinking water advisories, ineffective sewage services, adjacent unregulated pollution from mines and mills, adjacent to landfills, or other polluting industries. CFUW believes it is inherent upon a citizenry to protect the marginalized and ensure they are treated fairly and that they participate in finding solutions to their concerns.

We feel that a national strategy is an important first step and that promoting it and educating the public about the strategy and its intent is also important.

To that end, CFUW \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ calls on the federal government to pass Bill C-226 without delay and implement the National Strategy to Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Name

CFUW Club President