[date]

Dear [Mr./Mrs./Ms. full name – send to MPs ONLY],

I am writing on behalf of [Club name], an affiliate of CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women), a national organization with 94 Clubs across Canada and over 6,600 members. Throughout our 105-year history, CFUW has worked to achieve a world in which women and girls are educated and empowered to make transformative change in the world.

Like many Canadians, we watched in horror as COVID-19 claimed the lives of far too many long-term care (LTC) home residents. The pandemic uncovered **serious discrepancies and deficiencies in the quality of care provided in LTC homes**, and highlighted the urgent need for national care standards. We applaud the federal government for taking action on this by tasking the Health Standards Organization (HSO) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) with developing two sets of standards: one on care services, and one on physical environments.

Published in 2023, the **HSO Standards provide comprehensive guidelines for delivering resident-centred, high-quality care,** and measures to achieve the qualified, healthy workforce needed to deliver that care. However, **these standards are currently voluntary in many jurisdictions.** Accreditation Canada has adopted the standards as a part of their accreditation program, but this program covers only about 68% of LTC homes, as just five provinces mandate accreditation. The standards will only be truly effective if all LTC homes follow them, with **adequate funding** to do so and **accountability frameworks** to ensure funds are used appropriately to meet or exceed the level of care which the standards describe.

CFUW urges the federal government, through bilateral agreements and the forthcoming Safe Long-Term Care Act, to **incentivize provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments to implement long-term care strategies that follow the LTC standards** and encourage their application **in *all* LTC facilities**. We know that you share our conviction that providing high-quality long-term care to older adults should not be optional—please consider adding your voice to our call for universal adherence to the national long-term care standards in every care home in Canada.

Thank you very much for your attention and support on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

[Name]

President, [Club name]