[date]

Dear [Premier, / Mr./Mrs./Ms. full name,]

I am writing on behalf of CFUW [Council name], a regional body of CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women). CFUW is a national, self-funded, non-partisan organization founded in 1919. With 94 Clubs across Canada and over 6,600 members, CFUW works nationally and within our communities to achieve equality and social justice through continuous learning and empowerment, granting over $1 million a year in scholarships and awards.

Like many Canadians, we are very disappointed in the increasingly toxic and unprofessional tone and conduct of politics in [province], both within and outside of the [Legislative Assembly/House of Assembly/National Assembly].

While politicians of all backgrounds and identities are facing growing aggression, women—particularly Indigenous, 2SLGBTQ+, and racialized women—are more frequently subjected to identity-focused attacks. These attacks are often graphic in sexuality, gender, and race-based insults and target physical appearances. In addition to negatively impacting individuals’ wellbeing, this violence also sends a message that women are not welcome in political spaces. We know that when women are deterred from engaging in politics, we all lose.

Social media, with its anonymity and tendency to polarize and misinform, has no doubt contributed greatly to this problem, and improved regulation is thus needed. However, we believe the responsibility to act also lies with politicians themselves, especially the [Speaker of the Legislative Assembly/Speaker of the House of Assembly/President of the National Assembly] and leaders of political parties.

In 2022, CFUW passed a Resolution encouraging all political parties and politicians to take public stands against violence and harassment of women in politics—we are writing today to ask this of you and your caucus. We urge you to do your part to ensure political debate is conducted civilly and respectfully, without personal attacks.

*\*Delete first part of sentence if non-applicable\** [ With an election coming soon, ] we are counting on you to set a positive example by upholding the highest standards of conduct and supporting women in politics. The future strength of our democracy and the achievement of equal political participation depend on it.

*CFUW [Council name] has sent this letter to all provincial political party leaders.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

[Name]

President, CFUW [Council name]