



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

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January 30, 2019

The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, representing more than 80,000 women across Canada, in every province, territory and the military, wishes to extend appreciation on behalf of its members for the changes made to the attestation requirement of the 2019 Canada Summer Jobs Program. Concern was expressed by the League in a letter dated February 17, 2018 that the attestation infringed on the rights of freedom and conscience enshrined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The federal government has a duty to respect and protect all of its citizens. Freedom of speech and of conscience are inherent to being Canadian. The respect for all viewpoints, including the right of freedom of religion and freedom of conscience, is non-negotiable.

League members appreciate that their concerns and those of thousands of other like-minded citizens were listened to and acted upon by the minister of employment, workplace development and labour. Gratitude is also expressed for the two opportunities for the national president at the time, Margaret Ann Jacobs, to be part of round table discussions convened by the minister.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada thanks you for the many hours spent meeting with and listening to the Canadian people on this important topic. Giving as many students as possible opportunities to engage in a wide variety of experiences will prepare them for future employment in careers of their choice.

Sincerely,

Anne-Marie Gorman
National President

MR/ks

Cc: The Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workplace
Development and Labour