



*Canadian Federation of University Women*  
*Markham/Unionville*

January 24, 2022

Paul Chiang  
MP Markham-Unionville  
House of Commons  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

**Re: Post-Pandemic Recovery for Women in Canada and Abroad**

Dear Mr. Paul Chiang,

I am writing on behalf of CFUW Markham/Unionville, with 148 members in Markham, Unionville and surrounding areas. We are an affiliate of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) that works to improve the status of women and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace in Canada and abroad.

We are calling on you to urge the Federal, Provincial, Territorial, and Municipal Governments to develop and fund comprehensive Post-Pandemic(s) Socioeconomic Recovery Plan(s) including specific interventions to address the disparate effect of pandemics on the lives of women in Canada and abroad.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have tremendous impacts on our daily lives across the world. Although COVID-19 was once called “the great equalizer”, the economic, health, and social impacts of this pandemic have not been equal at all – women, particularly those who are racialized, low-income, live with disabilities, or are newcomers or refugees, have been disproportionately impacted. A comprehensive socioeconomic recovery plan that addresses the disparate effects of pandemics on women’s lives is crucial to building back Canada’s economy so that it becomes more inclusive and ultimately more resilient in future crises.

YWCA Canada and the Institute for Gender and the Economy (GATE) formulated the [“Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for Canada”](#), an eight-pillar blueprint for making the post-pandemic economy work for everyone. This plan offers eight gender-responsive steps that all levels of government could use as a starting point for action as they design and implement policies to stimulate post-pandemic recovery. From affordable child care

provision, to expanding gender-based violence services, to addressing systemic racism, there are myriad ways to support the implementation of a post-pandemic socioeconomic recovery plan. Addressing the gendered impacts of the pandemic using an intersectional perspective can not only illuminate why women were vulnerable in the first place, but can also provide a framework to develop socioeconomic interventions that facilitate the full and effective participation of *all* women in Canadian life.

In March 2020, it was [reported](#) that women represented 70% of all job losses in the core working age demographic aged 25 to 54 years old and that [1 in 5](#) women workers lost their jobs or the majority of their hours during this time. [Women](#) continue to be concentrated in professional sectors that are on the frontlines of the pandemic such as health or minimum wage work, while simultaneously performing the majority of the country's care work, both paid and unpaid. Despite major strides in women's participation and advancement in the labour force over several decades, these inequities reveal the precarity of women's economic security and the urgency with which systemic inequities and discrimination must be addressed in recovery plans.

CFUW encourages all levels of government to work together to support the implementation of a "feminist recovery" by developing and funding comprehensive socioeconomic recovery plans that address the disparate impacts of pandemics on women, while ultimately making our country more resilient to future crises.

We look forward to your response outlining your position and the actions you plan to take to address this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Dianne Murray  
Per  
Marg Esaw  
President – CFUW Markham/Unionville