



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

January 16, 2018

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The Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Dear Ms. Minister,

Re: Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in R. v. Gladue for Indigenous Offenders

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, represents more than 82,000 members across Canada in every province, territory and in the military. The League's mandate is to take an active role in opposing discrimination wherever and in whatever form it appears. Members uphold the dignity and human rights of all people in Canada as well as developing countries.

At the 97th annual national convention in August 2017, over 700 League delegates from across Canada assembled, adopted *Resolution 2017.01 Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in R. v. Gladue for Indigenous Offenders*. A copy of this resolution is enclosed.

This resolution originated from the concern of the current inconsistencies on policies and practices throughout the provinces and territories reflecting the principles set out in the Supreme Court decision R. v. Gladue. The Supreme Court of Canada recognized that pursuant to section 718.2(e) of the Criminal Code of Canada, there are mitigating social and historical circumstances that should be considered when sentencing Indigenous individuals, whether they are on or off the reserve. Judges were also mandated to consider an Indigenous person's life path before sentencing. By fully implementing this mandate for each Indigenous offender, it would provide an opportunity to help restore their liberty, dignity and respect.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada respectfully urges the federal government to fully implement the R. v. Gladue decision by directing the courts of Canada to ensure that Gladue reports are provided to all judges before sentencing Indigenous offenders.

Members look forward to receiving a reply from you outlining how the federal government will advocate for a process that will address this mandate.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ann Jacobs
National President

BC/maj

Cc: National Chairperson of Community Life Betty Colaneri

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