



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION DU
BARREAU CANADIEN

December 7, 2015

Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Northwest Territories Branch of the Women Lawyers Forum of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA), we write to extend our congratulations on your election to the 18th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

The CBA is a national association representing over 36,000 lawyers, judges, law teachers and law students across Canada. The CBA brings a commitment to the rule of law, access to justice and the Charter of Rights, as well as expertise on how the law touches the lives of Canadians every day. The Women Lawyers Forum takes particular interest in issues affecting women both in the profession and society at large.

We are keenly aware of the disproportionate rate of family violence in the Northwest Territories and its particular impact on indigenous Canadians. Our membership is frequently tasked to act in response to family violence in, for example, criminal, family and child protection matters. Given our involvement from diverse perspectives, we appreciate the complexity and multitude of issues that establish cycles of violence not only as between adults but as inter-generational trauma.

We know you are working to set priorities for the 18th Legislative Assembly and will soon choose our new premier and the members of the Executive Council. We urge you to engage courageously the question of what can be done to reduce the levels of violence in Northwest Territories' families. You are ideally placed to show leadership on this issue and send the message that it is time to start healing and empowering our communities against violence and victimization.

We look forward to working with you over the next four years and wish you all the best as you start the hard work ahead.

Yours truly,

Caroline Wawzonek

Women Lawyers Forum
Canadian Bar Association, Northwest Territories Branch