



News Release

Susan Kadis, M.P., Thornhill

For Immediate Release

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Susan Kadis, MP Calls On Government To Place Women's Issues Back On The National Agenda

Thornhill – Susan Kadis Member of Parliament for Thornhill welcomes the release of the Women's Liberal Caucus Volume II of the *Pink Book: A Policy Framework for Canada's Future*, in response to concerns about violence against women, the challenges faced by immigrant, rural, aboriginal women and affordable housing.

“The Liberal Women's Caucus and the *Pink Book* place women's issues back on the national agenda where they belong,” Susan Kadis said. “The contents of the *Pink Book* are the direct result of discussions with women from across the country. *Pink Book Volume II* is a continuation of the grassroots work by the Liberal Party of Canada with women and women's organization's ensuring that women's voices are heard.”

Included among the recommendations of *Pink Book Volume II* are:

- **Violence Against Women:** Amendments are needed to the federal Divorce Act, to define the best interests of children in custody cases and protect children from an access parent who has a history of abuse. In addition, increased federal funds should be dedicated to civil legal aid under the Canada Social Transfer to ensure that women have much needed access to legal representation in family law matters.
- **Immigrant and Refugee Women:** Women’s Caucus supports changing work permits under the Live-in Caregiver Program, which allows workers from overseas to provide support for children, elderly and/or disabled persons, and enables approximately 3000 to 5000 caregivers to work in Canada each year, from employer-specific to sector-specific. As well, Women’s Caucus supports the elimination of processing fees for refugees. Under the current system, a refugee family of four would have to pay \$1,400 for their application for permanent residence status – more than a month’s salary at minimum wage.
- **Housing and Homelessness:** Canada needs a National Housing Strategy that is inclusive of women and would set low-income women as a priority. In addition, a portable shelter subsidy should be established, which would be tied to need, rather than designated units.
- **Rural Women:** Women in rural areas often lack access to social services, education, well-paying jobs and health care services. As well, the rural poor have not had the same attention and research dedicated to their needs that urban poverty issues have received. Women’s Caucus endorses the creation of a Liberal taskforce that would travel across the country meeting with organizations and individual women from rural Canada to discuss their concerns and priorities.
- **Aboriginal Women:** *Pink Book II* reaffirms support for the commitment made in Volume I of the *Pink Book* to increase financial resources to Aboriginal women’s organizations to the same level as their male-led counterparts. In addition, the federal government should adopt “Jordan’s Principle” to address inter-departmental issues regarding the care of First Nations children in a timely manner, so that the welfare of the child is a priority. Eliminating violence against Aboriginal women should be a priority, and Women’s Caucus believes the most effective approach is to have a nation-wide violence prevention strategy for the Aboriginal people that allows for regional flexibility in policy, programming and funding.

To view Pink Book Volume II, please visit:

http://www.liberal.ca/pdf/docs/071205_pinkbook_2_en.pdf

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