[Add address here]

[Add date here]

Dear [MLA NAME],

My name is [YOUR NAME] and I live in [CITY].

I am writing to you today because I am deeply concerned with ongoing epidemic of violence against women and girls.

Each year in BC, more than 30,000 women and children are affected by domestic violence. In addition, more than 18,000 women and children access transition houses and safe houses to escape violence or abuse. Violence in relationships, sexual harassment and assault are the result of the subjugation of women in society impacting their ability to live healthy, happy lives.

The grim reality of women not having adequate support puts lives at risk, on average every 5 days a woman in Canada is killed by her male partner.

This is why Battered Women’s Support Services (BWSS) campaign #kNOwmore is addressing this ongoing issue while increasing awareness and creating a call to action. With the upcoming provincial election, I am asking you to commit to #kNOwmore.

Here is what I am asking from your today Choose an issue/topic from the BWSS list or insert your own based on what matters most to you –the following are examples:

1. Housing is a vital for women and their children experiencing violence. Access to safe, secure, affordable housing is a critical factor for women when choosing to leave a violent partner. Women who leave abusive relationships and go to transition houses can be forced back to violent/abusive situations, due to the high rates of rent, when the 30 days in a transition house are up. Women should not have to be forced to choose between a roof over their head or abuse.
2. Front line workers play a pivotal role in empowering and supporting a woman when she decides to leave an abusive intimate relationship and in helping a woman navigate the different systems. Women’s organizations have the expertise and knowledge to assist women to leave abusive partners. Currently, there is a high demand for access to counsellors and other services these organizations provide, but there are long wait-lists. Financially supporting these organizations will yield optimal return on investment.
3. While child care costs have risen 35% since 2007, income has only increased 10%. On average, women spend on 50 hours a week caring for children. This is even more difficult to balance while also doing other unpaid work, paid work and experiencing violence or trying to leave an abusive relationship. Providing access to affordable child care would allow women who are leaving abusive relationships access different support they need, such as legal support, find housing, counselling or other support services and income assistance or employment without the worry of looking for child care.

As your constituent, I would like to be notified as soon as possible of the steps, you, your office and the Provincial Government is taking to protect the rights of women and girls and ensure that they can live lives free from violence.

Sincerely,

[Name]