



Open Letter to Women Ministers

Ladies Ministers,

Many of us rejoiced at the appointment of a Council of Ministers where women were as numerous as men. We know that this is only fair, but we also hope that this arrival of women in power will better take into account the reality of women citizens who make up half of the country's population.

However, a bill on the commercialization of women's wombs and the sale of children presents a real test : will women in power support the defense of the dignity of human life or will they vote in favor of a lucrative industry which considers that women are a source of raw material and profits? In short, will women in power dare having a different opinion?

The surrogacy business is a very lucrative industry, where many take advantage of the many who desire a child and women's financial insecurity. As women, are you ready to support a bill that trivializes wombs rentals?

If you are voting for the commercialization of surrogacy, you know that you agree to:

- promote the fact that it is acceptable for children to be conceived to be sold
- systematize the planned abandonment of babies at birth;
- subject a woman's body to the control of the commissioning parents for 9 months;
- ignore studies that show the importance of mother-child relationships during pregnancy;
- ignore international laws that prohibit the trafficking of women and children; • ignore international laws that prohibit adoption arrangements before the birth of a child;
- ignore the fact that it is always the most vulnerable and poor women whose uteri are used;

- consider women as sources of production and profits for the many intermediaries involved in the surrogacy Industry;
- encourage Canada to become a facilitator of surrogacy tourism that is developing internationally;
- allow multinational companies to establish the rules of the game;
- trivialize the fact that humans become a marketable product like any other.

It is certainly not for these reasons that you came to politics, after a hard struggle to make your way. Women in politics should make a difference.

In addition, Canada enjoys championing women's rights, as it will do at the upcoming G7 meeting in Canada. It must move from words to acts and protect first and foremost the right of women and children not to become goods that are rented and sold to the highest bidder. It is in the interest of the entire population. Clearly, once the marketing of humans becomes legal, we will rapidly converge towards the sale of blood and organs.

Like other countries, such as France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, the Baltic States, Canada should not only prohibit the practice of surrogacy, in particular its commercialization, but also be at the forefront of the fight to abolish the practice of surrogacy worldwide.

We ask you to oppose categorically any projected Bill or regulation that would allow the commercialization of women and children. It is a question of human dignity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Guilbault", is displayed on a light gray rectangular background.

Diane Guilbault
President,
Pour les droits des femmes du Québec