

Honourable Steve Crocker  
Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation  
P.O. Box 8700  
Confederation Building  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

**BY MAIL**  
**BY EMAIL**

May 30, 2022

Dear Minister Crocker:

**Re: Women's and Girls' Sports Leagues**

Women Matter Canada is a not-for-profit organization made up of women across the political spectrum all over Canada who are concerned about the quiet erosion of the basic human rights of females. There have been many policies implemented and proposed which negatively impact all females, especially the most vulnerable. These policies range from the erasure of females in language (such as 'menstruator' or 'bleeder' instead of 'woman', and 'birthing body' instead of 'pregnant woman'); accessing clear, factual and unambiguous information and data regarding medical issues; physical safety; privacy; and security of female prisoners (who make up just 5% of the entire population of provincial prisons and 6% in federal prisons). Aside from these issues, we are concerned about what has happened and is happening to sports designated for women and girls.

We are writing to you out of concern over the safety and equity that has been removed from girls' and women's sport leagues. This is a result of allowing males self-identifying as women and/or girls to compete in female designated leagues. Although male teams are technically open to anyone to compete in, female sports leagues were created in order to allow women and girls a fair playing field on which to compete.

Males have a physiological advantage over females, an advantage some biologists and kinesiologists argue begins even before puberty, but is certainly evident after puberty. Male advantage extends beyond testosterone (the only measurement used presently to determine if a male may compete in a female designated category – something that is being removed by some sports associations) as there is a massive structural difference between the two sexes. Even if both athletes are the same height and weight the male athlete would have an advantage stemming from larger lung capacity, denser bone structures, differing pelvis and angle to the legs, larger upper body muscle mass, longer limbs, as well as a number of other differences. These differences put female competitors at a higher risk to injury if she competes in a contact sport. Two reports have been attached for more information ("Biology, fairness and transgender athletes in women's sports", *McDonald Laurier Institute*, December 2021, and "Summary of transgender biology and performance research" by World Rugby in 2020). If women's leagues did not exist, it would be rare for a female to compete, and even more so to win competitions.

We believe everyone should have the chance to compete, with the caveat that bodies compete in sport, not identities. The principle of "inclusion" should never be applied at the expense of the equity and safety of female athletes.

We look forward to working with you on ensuring that females' rights are respected. We welcome the chance to speak with you further on this issue.

Sincerely,



Caroline Mendoza  
on behalf of Women Matter Canada

Encl.