



West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund

555–409 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC, V6C 1T2

t: 604.684.8772 [westcoastleaf.org](http://westcoastleaf.org)

July 21, 2017

Honourable David Eby  
PO BOX 9044  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC  
V8W 9E2  
Via email: [JAG.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:JAG.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Eby:

**Re: Key priorities for gender equality**

Congratulations on your appointment as the new Attorney General of BC. As you know, West Coast LEAF has a long history and strong expertise on access to justice issues in BC and we look forward to working with you to shape the justice system – particularly legal aid – to better support women in the province.

It is no secret that BC is in a legal aid crisis and that this crisis disproportionately impacts women. Severe and entrenched cuts to family law legal aid have left many women in BC unable to enforce their rights to protection orders, child support and property division, among many other issues. The access to justice crisis in BC impacts the everyday lives and wellbeing of women throughout the province because they are forced to forego their legal rights when they cannot afford legal support. For women fleeing violent relationships, their safety and the safety of their children may be at risk. In addition, it creates additional and unnecessary costs in the justice system and other government services.

We know that there is much work to do to improve BC's justice system, but we strongly urge you to **take immediate action to improve BC's legal aid coverage** to ensure that all British Columbians can meaningfully enforce their rights.



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We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter further, as well as other ways in which BC's justice system can better support women.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kasari Govender". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Kasari Govender  
Executive Director