

Journeywomen Ventures Ltd.

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The Honourable John Cashore
Minister of Labour
Fax: 250 387-3200

Dear John Cashore:

I regret that I have had to resort to the political arena to try to resolve this issue. Since it has been discussed at the past four PAB meetings, and assurances from your ministry were given, the missing elements must now be seen as more than an oversight. The time to act, before it is given over to the Ministers is extremely limited, and the time that you will have to act before it goes to Cabinet is not much more. I have tried to act within the scope of my role on the Board, but that has not sufficed.

While my time on the PAB has been extremely challenging, as Chair of the Equity Committee, I have worked hard to move forward recommendations which have been passed by the Board after great and lengthy discussions and modification. No other subject consistently gets as much resistance as this one. That those recommendations have not been acted upon, I can only leave at the door of the bureaucrats in both Labour and Education, Skills and Training, and their masters, the Government. I am constantly being told that my role as a Board member does not mean being involved in implementing those recommendations. Then whose responsibility is it?

I know that the Ministry is newly yours, and that you cannot be responsible for all that has gone before you. But I do know that I have been a lonely voice for Equity access and implementation. I am one of the few in the country with as broad an experience as I have with Apprenticeship issues, but there are many tradeswomen and educators who are knowledgeable in the area who would benefit from the experience of being a WITT advocate in this context. It is a very difficult experience to represent these issues when you are the lone voice, and I do not believe it serves the system as well as if there were more at the table whose role it was to represent equity issues. I urge you to consider this, to consider the issues that are raised in my letter to Paul Ramsey. I have written to him because I know him from working at CNC, and because he also has responsibility here. The message is also directed for you, and I hope that we can work together on these issues in the future.

With regard,

Marcia Braundy
Principal, Journeywomen Ventures Ltd.