

DOC
CAI
EA
2017015
ENG

8116-DOCS
64423835

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Peace and prosperity are every person's birthright. Today, as Canadians, we have a great opportunity to help the people of the world's developing countries join the global middle class and the multilateral system that supports it.

It is worth reminding ourselves why we step up—why we devote

time and resources to foreign policy, trade, defence and development: Canadians are safer and more prosperous when more of the world shares our values.

Those values include feminism and the promotion of the rights of women and girls.

It is important—and historic—that we have a prime minister and a government proud to proclaim themselves as feminists. Women's rights are human rights. This includes sexual and reproductive rights—and the right to access safe and legal abortions. These rights are at the core of our foreign policy.

I am delighted my colleague the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie is launching Canada's first Feminist International Assistance Policy, which targets gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. We are positioning Canada at the forefront of this global effort. This is a matter of basic justice and also basic economics. We know that empowering women, overseas and here at home, makes families and countries more prosperous.

Now is the time to rise to the great challenges of this century. As I said in the government's foreign policy statement, our job today is to preserve the achievements of previous generations, and to build on them, as we are doing through Canada's first Feminist International Assistance Policy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Freeland', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Foreign Affairs

LIBRARY / BIBLIOTHÈQUE
Foreign Affairs, Trade
and Development Canada
Affaires étrangères, Commerce
développement Canada
125 Sussex
Ottawa K1A 0G2