



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5

The Honourable Kevin Sorenson, M.P.  
Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

OCT 07 2016

Dear Mr. Sorenson:

Pursuant to Standing Order 109 of the House of Commons, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Government of Canada to the recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in its Eleventh Report, *Report 1, Implementing Gender-based Analysis, of the Fall 2015 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada*.

The Government appreciates the important work undertaken by you and members of the Committee and extends our thanks as well to the witnesses who offered an honest appraisal of the successes and challenges that they have faced in implementing Gender-based Analysis (GBA), also known as Gender-based Analysis Plus. As you know, GBA is a critical tool to assess the impacts of our policies, programs and legislation on diverse groups. The “plus” is used to emphasize that GBA also includes the consideration of multiple intersecting identity factors including, age, culture, ability, geography, education, and others.

My mandate letter as Minister of Status of Women, reflects our Government’s renewed commitment to GBA. It was further underscored by Budget 2016, which provided for increased investments in Status of Women Canada (SWC) to enhance the Agency’s capacity to implement our GBA mandate.

As you know, in April 2016, SWC, the Privy Council Office (PCO) and the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) released a GBA Action Plan (2016-2020). This Action Plan details the specific activities SWC, PCO and TBS will undertake in response to the gaps identified by the Auditor General in his Fall 2015 report in order to strengthen overall GBA implementation and accountability.

The Government agrees with both of the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and would like to report on the actions taken to date to further the implementation of GBA.

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We have implemented your recommendation to create mandatory requirements for all federal departments and agencies to conduct a complete GBA when developing legislation, regulations, policies, and programs, and to include the results of such analysis in all Memoranda to Cabinet and Treasury Board submissions. In summer 2016, both PCO and TBS released updated templates and tools for Cabinet submissions which require that evidence be provided to demonstrate that GBA has been considered and was completed as necessary, and that relevant analysis is reflected in the options and advice presented, including in a designated mandatory section of Memoranda to Cabinet and Treasury Board submissions.

We also agree with your recommendation that SWC, PCO and TBS provide the Committee with an interim report outlining the progress in implementing the GBA Action Plan (2016-2020), as well as a final progress report. We would be pleased to provide an interim progress report by March 2017. This timeline will allow us to more fully assess and report on initial impacts of issuing updated Cabinet document submission requirements, and of elements of our Action Plan related to training, capacity-building, networks, and accountability. A final progress report will be tabled by March 31, 2018 as recommended.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the members of the Standing Committee for your important work in advancing gender equality in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Hajdu', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.

Attachments