

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Women's rights organizations call for resignation of Status of Women Minister Rona Ambrose**

Ottawa: The National Association of Women and the Law ("NAWL"), along with a number of Canadian women's equality groups, joins the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada in demanding the immediate resignation of the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Rona Ambrose.

A woman's right to reproductive choice has been a central tenet of NAWL's mission and principles since the organization was founded in 1974. NAWL believes that a woman's right to control if and when she chooses to reproduce is an essential component of women's equality. By voting in favour of Stephen Woodsworth's defeated Motion 312 yesterday, Minister Ambrose abrogated her responsibility to uphold women's constitutional equality rights.

"While it is profoundly disappointing that any MP would do so, it is appalling that Minister Ambrose would support Motion 312, which is nothing more than a backdoor attempt to reopen a legislative discussion about the legality of abortion in Canada," said Julie Shugarman, NAWL's Executive Director.

"As Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Minister Ambrose has an obligation not only to understand, but to ardently defend, the constitutionally guaranteed equality rights of women in Canada, including their reproductive rights," said Martha Jackman, constitutional law professor and Chair of NAWL's Board of Directors. "Minister Ambrose's actions demonstrate that she is unqualified for the position, and she should resign."

NAWL, along with the Schlifer Clinic in Toronto, the Center for Feminist Legal Studies at Queens, the Queen's University Feminist Law Student's Association, the Dalhousie Association of Women and the Law and the University of Ottawa Association of Women and the Law, has called on the Prime Minister to take swift action.

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If you would like more information about NAWL's call for Rona Ambrose's resignation, or for further comment, please contact:

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