



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

November 25, 2021



Arnold Viersen, MP
Peace River—Westlock

Hon. David Lametti, PC, MP
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Minister Lametti,

November is Domestic Violence Awareness Month across Canada and Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta. I am writing to you on behalf of my constituents who have experienced domestic violence and face challenges accessing justice and safety, and in particular face coercive control by their former partners during and/or following the separation.

Last spring, the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights studied coercive control and testimony revealed that women fleeing their partner's violence are often told by the authorities that their experiences or history are not sufficient for the police to act. This can also occur during ongoing relationships. The Committee's unanimous report recommended that the government draft legislation and consider Bill C-202 (formerly C-247), *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (controlling or coercive conduct)*, as potential language.

Further, having worked with survivors of human trafficking, I also know that coercive and controlling behaviour is a primary method used by human traffickers to control their victims and many traffickers seek to continue control over their victims after the victims have left or escaped. As such, I would urge you to also include the dynamic between traffickers and victims of trafficking within the definition of persons 'connected' in government legislation on coercive control. This would provide additional tools to counter-trafficking units to protect victims of trafficking.

On behalf of my constituents, I would urge you to support Bill C-202 or introduce government legislation at the soonest opportunity that would make coercive and controlling behaviour an offence in the Criminal Code.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Arnold Viersen, MP
Peace River—Westlock

Cc: Randall Garrison, MP for Esquimalt—Saanich—Sooke

Ottawa

Room 1070
The Valour Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel: 613.996.1783
Fax: 613.995.1415



Arnold.Viersen@parl.gc.ca
www.mparnold.ca

Constituency

Box 4458, 5124-50 Street
Barrhead, AB T7N 1A3
Tel: 780.305.0340
Fax: 780.305.0343
Toll Free: 1.800.667.8450