



## Dr. Colin Carrie MP Oshawa

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### **Conservative Government celebrates the potential of young women and girls on International Women's Day**

**MP Colin Carrie encourages *girls and young women in Oshawa to participate in Strong Girls,  
Strong World video contest***

#### **For Immediate Release**

**March 20, 2015, Oshawa** – Today, on behalf of the Honourable Dr. K. Kellie Leitch, Minister of Labour and Minister of Status of Women, Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment, highlighted the creation of a new Girls Advisory Council to engage girls across Canada on their priorities and perspectives. Dr. Carrie also announced the Strong Girls, Strong World video contest that will provide an opportunity for girls and young women to apply to become new Council members. The creation of the Girls Advisory Council and the related video contest are part of the Government of Canada's activities celebrating International Women's Day.

#### ***Girls Advisory Council***

*The Girls Advisory Council will engage girls 15-24 years of age on their priorities and areas of interest. The goal of the Council is to advise the Government of Canada in areas such as: how to empower girls to be leaders; mentoring and championing for girls; preventing violence against young women and girls, including the harmful effects of social media (e.g. cyberviolence); and, how to use social media tools in positive ways (e.g. to promote role models and gender equality).*

#### **Council Membership**

The initial members of the Girls Advisory Council are:

- **Helen Zhou:** Helen attends Toronto's Central Technical School, is President of Student Council, an active member of the Mock Trial Club, and has worked on the school yearbook and magazine for four years.
- **Rory Flynn:** Rory attends Sacred Heart School in Halifax, and is a member of the school's as well as the national debate team.
- **Anjali Katta:** Anjali is a high school student and founder of GirlsCo and Bombay pads, which are organizations that seek to better the lives of girls in India and Canada.
- **Madilyne Kevany:** for the past ten years Madilyne has personified the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg's core programming values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Caring.

## Strong Girls, Strong World Video Contest

Additional Advisory Council members will be selected by the Minister with the help of the current Council members. New members will be selected from among the participants of the Strong Girls, Strong World video contest. Dr. Carrie is joining Minister Leitch in inviting girls and young women to submit videos of their own thoughts about why it's important to celebrate the International Day of the Girl, and why they would like to join the Girls Advisory Council.

Guidelines for the Strong Girls, Strong World video contest can be found at [www.dayofthegirl.gc.ca](http://www.dayofthegirl.gc.ca)

### Quick Facts

- Strong Girls, Strong World video contest: videos need to be submitted by April 15, 2015.
- The Government of Canada is committed to giving girls a strong foundation for success by empowering girls to be leaders and reach their full potential through mentoring and championing, and by working to prevent violence against young women and girls.
- Since 2007, the Government of Canada has provided more than \$153 million through the Women's Program at Status of Women Canada for community-based projects. \$18 million from this program has been used for projects that address the needs of young women and girls.
- The 2015 International Women's Day theme is *Strong Women, Strong World: Improving Economic Opportunities for All*. This theme points to the vital contributions that women make to both the domestic and global economies. It also highlights the need to ensure that every woman has the opportunity to help create prosperity, whether as an employee, a professional, a business leader or an entrepreneur.

### Quotes

*"I am proud to launch a new Girls Advisory Council so that we can engage young women and girls on their priorities and perspectives. The Girls Advisory Council underscores our Government's focus on meeting the needs of women, young women, and girls from coast to coast to coast."*

- The Honourable Dr. K. Kellie Leitch, P.C., O.Ont., M.P.  
Minister of Labour and Minister of Status of Women

*"I am pleased to launch the Strong Girls, Strong World video contest in Oshawa so that young women and girls in our community can apply to be considered as members of the new Girls Advisory Council. This initiative highlights what we know is true - when girls have a strong start in life they can achieve their full potential."*

- Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment

## **Additional Links**

- Strong Girls, Strong World video contest details at [www.dayofthegirl.gc.ca](http://www.dayofthegirl.gc.ca)
- Information about [International Women's Day](#)

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## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **Girls Advisory Council**

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#### **Girls Advisory Council (GAC)**

On March 8, 2015, the Honourable Dr. K. Kellie Leitch, Minister of Labour and Minister of Status of Women, marked International Women's Day by announcing the creation of a new **Girls Advisory Council** to engage girls across Canada on their priorities and perspectives.

#### **Council Mandate**

The goal of the Council is to advise the Government of Canada in areas such as: how to empower girls to be leaders; mentoring and championing for girls; preventing violence against young women and girls, including the harmful effects of social media (e.g. cyberviolence); and, how to use social media tools in positive ways (e.g. to promote role models and gender equality).

#### **Council Membership**

In addition to the four initial members, further Advisory Council members will be selected from among the participants of the Strong Girls, Strong World video contest. New members will be selected by the Minister of Status of Women with the help of the four current members. A total of approximately 10 girls are expected to become members (1 per region).

#### **Video Concept**

To be eligible for consideration for membership in the GAC, girls and young women are invited to submit a short video clip (maximum length of 2 minutes) answering: ***Why is the International Day of the Girl important to you and why would you like to be part of the Council?*** This can be done either electronically or by mail.

#### **Deadline**

The video contest is open from March 8, 2015 until April 15, 2015.

#### **Guidelines**

Guidelines for the Strong Girls, Strong World video contest can be found at [www.dayofthegirl.gc.ca](http://www.dayofthegirl.gc.ca).