dear justin,

last holiday season, we asked you for 10 wishes. it’s been a busy year for all of us and you came through on some but we’ve worked really hard this year and are hoping for a 2017 where all of our holiday wishes come true.

1. sex worker rights: you didn’t repeal sections of the criminal code that threaten sex workers’ health and safety but you did promise to engage with sex workers and allied organizations when you review the legislation. when will that happen? soon we hope!

2. abortion access: you’ve begun health accord talks and we can’t wait for pei’s first on-island abortion services! but we need provinces like new brunswick to start funding abortions performed in clinics so that no one needs to pay out of pocket to access this type of healthcare in canada.

3. mife access: sure, the new abortion pill will be available in canada soon, but there are still so many unnecessary restrictions that will mean no access for many who need it. will you help remove them?

4. comprehensive sexuality education: even the united nations is asking for national standards across canada, can we please have standardized guidelines for “sex ed”? we really need it!

5. respect for gender identity and expression: we’re steps away from seeing bill c-16 passed, thanks for making our wish come true! now let’s get all the provinces and territories onboard.

6. respect for the sexual and reproductive health of incarcerated persons: have you forgotten about the guidelines for the implementation of mother-child units in canadian correctional facilities? the united nations is wondering too, when will incarcerated persons be treated with dignity and their sexual and reproductive rights respected?
7. A global sexual and reproductive rights policy: Your international assistance review summary includes many of our asks (thanks Justin!), you’ve committed to a feminist development policy, and you’re minister for international development has even called on partners to include the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Canadian development programming. We’re hoping this translates into a solid Canadian global policy on sexual and reproductive rights and new funding for the issues that Muskoka neglected! Please tell us it’s true!

8. 0.7% GNI: We’re not the only ones asking for an increase in official development assistance (with funds for sexual and reproductive health and rights included). The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade asked in 2002, 2003 and 2016, the Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Development asked in 2003, the Standing Committee on Finance asked in 2007 and 2016. It’s been years and we’re all still waiting, when will you come through?

9. A clear plan for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: You gave us the gift of universality and we loved it! But a clear plan didn’t come included, can we have it this year?

10. Canada as a global leader: We’re truly on our way with this one and need it more than ever! You’ve taken up a seat on the UN Commission on the Status of Women and Minister Bibeau has joined the UN Secretary General’s high level advisory group for “every woman, every child.” We have lots more ideas about how to be a sexual and reproductive health and rights champion, let’s set up a meeting soon!

From,

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights

PS: Please come visit us at sexualhealthandrights.ca!