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On behalf of Premier Rankin and the Nova Scotia Liberal Party, thank you for the opportunity to respond to these important questions. Please read below.

1. If you are elected how will you proceed with the roll out of this crucial resource? What additional steps will you take to ensure women who are included in our economic recovery?

Our Liberal government was proud to lead the way in becoming one of the first provinces in the country to partner with the federal government to deliver universal childcare for Nova Scotian families. Our government signed the new Canada-Nova Scotia Early Learning & Child Care Agreement, an historic \$645 million commitment. By next year, families in Nova Scotia will pay 50% less for regulated childcare, and by 2026, childcare will cost an average of \$10 a day -- saving families over \$8,000 per year.

This investment will also create 9,500 new childcare spaces including increased spaces for infants and toddlers. The addition of 7,500 before and after school program spaces will reduce the need for parents to make alternative arrangements for childcare. Priority will be given to vulnerable and equity seeking families, providing those with socioeconomic barriers to childcare secure access to an affordable high-quality service. These combined initiatives will ensure that parents are able to contribute to our economy and help women who so often bear disproportionate responsibilities around childcare.

We understand the significance the gender pay gap has in women's economic success. That's why our government changed the Labour Standards Code so employers could no longer prohibit employees from sharing information about their salaries. This is an important step in addressing the gender wage gap because it can put an end to a lower salary following a woman throughout her career.

2. What commitments would your party make to addressing gender inequities and eliminating gender-based violence?

Our government invested in the Domestic Violence Prevention Grants, which are part of Standing Together, a larger action plan to prevent domestic violence. We are working to eliminate violence against Indigenous women and girls and have met with Mi'kmaw women leaders, working together to develop a path forward for Nova Scotia. We will continue to work with community groups, including yours, to see the interests and security of women advanced in our province.

Our government is committed to eliminating the devastating act of human trafficking in our province. That's why, in 2020, we committed to investing an additional \$1.4 million per year, for the next five years, into programs, services, and supports focused on prevention, raising awareness, and directly helping victims and survivors.

As part of our platform, we will commit \$500,00 annually to hire additional social workers operating within existing Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Programs, to implement comprehensive screening and appropriate responses for domestic violence, while supporting the delivery of the Highest Risk Domestic Violence Framework.

3. What will you do to support our vital work if you are elected? Can we count on your support in securing an increase in our core funding?

We appreciate the important work that organizations such as yours contribute to Nova Scotians in need. As such, we are committed to working closely with you in a new government to advance the important discussion around women's rights. Our government is proud of the progressive, inclusive legislation we have introduced, and we are committed to furthering our work if re-elected.