



Provision of Free Period Products

By Keyna, rep from The Red Mvmnt

Period Poverty

- Restricted access to safe, hygienic, and sufficient menstrual products.
- Menstruators living in poverty are forced to choose between pads or food, electricity or tampons.
- Connected with a low self-esteem, lack of confidence, and severe health issues.
- Plan International Canada's 2019 Gender Study showed that **24% of all Canadian women** and **33% of Canadian women under 25** have struggled to afford period products for themselves and/or their dependants.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by **3.4% in 2021**, says Stats Canada, **highest since 1991**.

Inequality in the Community

- Plan International Canada's 2019 Gender Study showed that **68% of Canadian women** felt that their period prevented them from full participation in an activity.
- PIC's 2018 Gender Study showed that **70% of Canadian women** have missed school or work or have withdrawn from social activities because of their period.
- This percent is **higher in menstruators under 25**, affecting the future of our community.
- Leads to unequal opportunities for those who menstruate.

Solution: Provision of Free Menstrual Products in Washrooms

- Why do we need to do this?
 - Increased access to menstrual products.
 - Advance gender equality.
 - Ensure equity in opportunities provided for growth and success.
 - Fight period poverty in the community, making Vaughan a better place to call home.
- This is no different from providing tissues, handsoap, and water in public washrooms. **Periods don't stop.**

A red movement across the country

- In 2019, **B.C.** and **Toronto District School Board** mandated all public schools to provide free menstrual products.
- In April 2021, **Edmonton, Brampton** announced free period products in public washrooms.
- In October 2021, **Ontario** announced free period products in schools.
- In December 2021, **Cambridge** announced free period products in public washrooms.
- In March 2022, **Mississauga** announced free period products in public washrooms.
- **Vaughan** needs to join this movement.

Thank you

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