



**Liberal Party of Canada**

350 Albert Street, Suite 920  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6M8

**Parti libéral du Canada**

350, rue Albert, bureau 920  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

September 14, 2021

Women's Shelters Canada

Via email: [lmartin@endvaw.ca](mailto:lmartin@endvaw.ca)

Dear Lise Martin,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party of Canada's formal response to your questionnaire.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

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## **1. What is the Liberal Party of Canada's timeline to develop and implement the National Action Plan on VAW/GBV?**

We are committed to building a country free from gender-based violence. That's why, in 2017, we launched Canada's first Gender-Based Violence Strategy and invested \$200 million on initiatives to end violence against women. Budget 2021 pledged another \$601 million towards a National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. But we know there is more work to do.

A Liberal government will continue to move forward with the development of a 10-year National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and begin negotiations with the provinces and territories within a year. We will also accelerate the establishment of the dedicated Secretariat announced in Budget 2021 and put in place an accountability framework to ensure anyone facing gender-based violence has reliable and timely access to services, no matter where they live. Additionally, we will work with community-based anti-violence experts to track progress of the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence.

## **2. Is the Liberal Party committed to implementing the first three steps of the roadmap to the NAP (see above: ensuring proper governance & accountability through an Independent Oversight Body of Experts, harmonizing responses to MMIWG, and ensuring a stable VAW/GBV sector)?**

We know that COVID-19 pandemic created a shadow pandemic and for some women their home became one of the most dangerous places for them. That is why we have provided over \$200 million in emergency COVID-19 funding to front line organizations to boost their capacity to help women escape dangerous situations.

The Liberal Party of Canada understands that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are much more likely to experience violence than non-Indigenous women. Budget 2021 pledged \$55 million to bolster the capacity of Indigenous women and LGBTQ2+ organizations to provide gender-based violence prevention programming aimed at addressing the root cause of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2+ people. We will continue to develop these programs in full partnership with Indigenous women as we implement the National Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

In order to be truly transformational, our National Action Plan must measure progress. That is why a re-elected government will accelerate the establishment of a dedicated Secretariat as announced in Budget 2021. We will also put in place an accountability framework to ensure anyone facing gender-based violence has reliable and timely access to services, no matter where they live. A re-elected Liberal government will work with community-based anti-violence experts to track progress of the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence.



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### **3. How will the Liberal Party ensure that more safe, accessible, and affordable housing is available for women fleeing violence?**

We understand the high need for affordable housing for vulnerable people including women and children fleeing violence. That's why we have taken steps to address the housing shortage and increase accessible and affordable housing with Canada's National Housing Strategy. This strategy has included investments such as:

- \$315.4 million over 7 years to increase direct financial assistance for low-income women and children fleeing violence.
- \$118.2 million over 7 years to support community housing providers for long-term housing for vulnerable communities.
- \$1.5 billion for Rapid Housing Initiative in 2021-22 to address urgent housing needs of vulnerable Canadians.
- Advancing and reallocating \$1.3 billion of previously announced funding, including \$250 million to support the construction, repair, and operation of 560 units of transitional housing and shelter spaces for women and children fleeing violence.

A re-elected government will permanently increase funding to the National Housing Co-Investment fund by a total of \$2.7 billion over 4 years, more than double its current allocation. These extra funds will be dedicated to helping affordable housing providers acquire land and buildings to build and preserve more units, extending the model of co-operative housing to new communities, accelerating critical repairs so that housing supply remains affordable and is not lost, and developing projects for vulnerable groups, such as women.

### **4. Does the Liberal Party support the addition of coercive control to the Criminal Code of Canada?**

A re-elected Liberal government will continue the crucial work of ending GBV in Canada. This will include working with provinces and territories to support the development of specialized sexual violence courts. We will also enact Clare's Law so that domestic partners who fear for their safety can request from police information about their partner's violent history, whether that includes sexual assault, domestic violence, convictions, arrests, or restraining orders. A re-elected Liberal government would support legislation that enhances the safety of anyone experiencing GBV. We recognize there is more work to do, and a re-elected Liberal government will continue to support this crucial work.