

Policy Shifts

Canadian Legislative Changes Impacting Violence Against Women

Spring 2022 – Summer 2023

National

Bills or acts that are of interest to VAW shelters and transition houses

- **Bill C-233 (Keira's Law)** will amend the Judges Act to ensure that judges receive training and education on domestic violence and coercive control in intimate partner and family relationships. This bill also includes electronic monitoring as a possible release condition for those facing domestic violence charges. This bill has received royal assent. *Apr 2023*
- **Bill C-21 (Gun control amendments)** would see newly manufactured guns, including those that fire in a "semi-automatic manner" and are designed to accept a magazine with more than five rounds, banned. This bill has passed second reading in the Senate. *Jun 2023*
- **Bill C-332 (Criminalization of Coercive Control)** would enact amendments to the criminal code to create an offence of coercive or controlling conduct. This bill was put forward by Laurel Collins and passed first reading. *May 2023*
- **Bill C-22 (Canada Disability Benefit)** will offer federal income supplement for low-income, working-age people with disabilities. This bill has received royal assent. *Jun 2023*

Court challenges

- **Challenge to Bill C-51** saw the Supreme Court of Canada uphold privacy provisions for sexual assault survivors in criminal trials. This restricts the accused's ability to use a survivor's private records and allows survivors to decide how their private information can be used. *Jun 2022*
- **Amendments to Bill C-28 (Self-induced extreme intoxication)** were implemented when the Supreme Court of Canada found s 33.1 unconstitutional, which provided the possibility of the extreme intoxication defence again. Parliament re-enacted s 33.1, but it is only available to those that can prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a reasonable person could not foresee their loss of control and potential to do harm because of their intoxication. *Jun 2022*

Other

- **Parliamentary hearings on Hockey Canada (Safe Sport in Canada)** were held to investigate Hockey Canada's handling of sexual assault allegations, as well as the organization itself and its spending/funding. *Jun-Nov 2022*

The National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence was announced in November 2022. It is a 10-year plan, with \$539.3 million committed for the first five years. Provincial/territorial agreements are to be signed in 2023.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Status of Women (FEWO)

- [Resource Development and Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls](#) Report released Dec 2022
- [Intimate Partner and Domestic Violence in Canada](#) Report released Jun 2022

- [Human Trafficking of Women, Girls and Gender Diverse People](#) *Started Nov 2022. In process*

Publications

Statistics Canada

- [Violent victimization and perceptions of safety: Experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in Canada](#) *Apr 2022*
- [Canadian residential facilities for victims of abuse, 2020/2021](#) *Apr 2022*
- [Shelters for victims of abuse with ties to Indigenous communities or organizations in Canada, 2020/2021](#) *Sept 2022*
- [Victims of police-reported family and intimate partner violence in Canada, 2021](#) *Oct 2022*
- [Profile of Canadians who experienced victimization during childhood, 2018](#) *Dec 2022*

Other Reports

- [Mass Casualty Commission Final Report – Turning the Tide Together](#) *Mar 2023*