

Policy Shifts

Canadian Legislative Changes Impacting Violence Against Women

July – December 2023

Legislation

National Legislative Changes Impacting Violence Against Women in Canada

- **Bill S-12** will amend the Criminal Code, the Sex Offender Information Registration Act, and the International Transfer of Offenders Act. This will require victim input into the process for publication ban decisions, which has been fought for by sexual assault survivors. This also expanded the offences that can result in a person being added to the sex offender registry, including non-consensual sharing of intimate photos and extortion. This bill has received royal assent. *Oct 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 received royal assent. *Dec 2023*
- **S-205** would amend the Criminal Code to allow judges to require electronic monitoring bracelets to be worn by accused abusers while awaiting trial, or those who are under a court order to stay away from a victim. This bill completed second reading in the House of Commons and has been referred to the FEWO standing committee. *Nov 2023*

Consultation

Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Status of Women (FEWO)

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

Financialization of Housing

- The Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities has led a [study on the Financialization of Housing](#). Many organizations presented on the role the housing crisis is having upon women experiencing violence. *May-Present*
- The National Housing Council has also undertaken a [review panel on the financialization of housing](#). Written submissions were accepted in the summer and oral hearings took place in the fall. WSC participated in the oral hearings and provided a written submission. *April-Dec 2023*

Criminalization of Coercive Control

- Justice Canada hosted a series of panels on the criminalization of coercive control. Gender justice and anti-violence organizations from across the country were engaged in this process. Justice Canada will be consulting with the provinces and territories through the remainder of the year. WSC provided a [written submission to the panel](#). *Sept-Dec 2023*

- In addition, C-332 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code (controlling or coercive conduct)), reached second reading. This bill aims to criminalize coercive control. *May-Nov 2023*

As part of the **National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence**, [agreements were announced](#) with all provinces and territories:

Province/Territory	NAP Allocation (million)	Population (P/T)	Per/Capita Investment
Alberta	\$54.1	4,262,635	\$12.69
British Columbia	\$62	5,000,879	\$12.40
Manitoba	\$22.3	1,342,153	\$16.62
New Brunswick	\$16.3	775,610	\$21.02
Newfoundland & Labrador	\$13.6	510,550	\$26.64
Northwest Territories	\$16.4	41,070	\$399.32
Nova Scotia	\$18.3	969,383	\$18.88
Nunavut	\$16.4	36,858	\$444.95
Ontario	\$162	14,223,942	\$11.39
Prince Edward Island	\$9.6	154,331	\$62.20
Quebec	\$97.3	8,501,833	\$11.44
Saskatchewan	\$20.3	1,132,505	\$17.92
Yukon	\$16.4	40,232	\$407.56

Publications

Statistics Canada

- [Court outcomes in homicides of Indigenous women and girls, 2009 to 2021](#) *Oct 2023*
- [Court outcomes associated with the gender-related homicide of women and girls in Canada, 2009/2010 to 2020/2021](#) *Oct 2023*
- [Trends in police-reported family violence and intimate partner violence in Canada, 2022](#) *Nov 2023*