



**WOMEN'S  
SHELTERS  
CANADA**

Shelters and  
Transition Houses  
United to End Violence  
Against Women

## **Ending Gender-Based Violence Federal Election 2025: Questions for Candidates**

Gender-based violence (GBV) is at epidemic proportions in Canada and around the world and only increased during the pandemic, and with rising inflation rates and economic challenges. The Canadian Femicide Observatory has reported that 187 women and girls were killed in 2024, the vast majority by men. A woman in Canada is killed by a current or former intimate partner, on average, once a week. Indigenous women continue to be seven times more likely to be killed than non-Indigenous women. On any given day, there are over 4,000 women and gender-diverse people and 3,000 children who have found safety in one of Canada's shelters. Shelters work tirelessly to ensure that survivors do not become statistics on femicide lists, but **contending with the [housing crisis means they are unable to meet growing demands.](#)**

The affordable housing crisis across the country has exacerbated the situation for those fleeing violence. More and more survivors are turned away from shelters that are already operating at – and sometimes over – capacity. Many shelters are seeing length of stays increase, which is leading to a backlog in the system that prevents new individuals from accessing safety. **We need to ensure that safe, accessible, and affordable housing is available for survivors fleeing violence.**

Through our work advocating for the [National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence](#) (NAP), we recommended **consistent and sustainable funding** for organizations providing the continuum of housing supports for survivors of GBV so that all survivors, regardless of their postal code, can access safe, affordable housing and supports. The demands that shelters are experiencing are higher than ever, yet rising costs of operating, declining donations, and the end of pandemic recovery funding mean that the financial situation in shelters across the country is dire.

After a decade of work advocating for a NAP, Canada's plan was announced in November 2022. While this was a step forward in addressing GBV, this plan requires an independent body to provide oversight and ensure accountability, like that recommended by the [Mass Casualty Commission](#). With improved transparency and accountability, there is potential for greater consistency across jurisdictions, and for best practices/effective strategies to be shared nationally. **Canada needs this accountability and transparency to ensure that survivors in all areas of the country have access to comparable levels of services and protection.**

GBV is an equity issue. It is a cause and consequence of gender inequality. To effectively address the issue, long-term systems change accompanied by a shift in attitudinal norms are needed. The 2025 Canadian federal election is the time for your voice to be heard.

### **Questions for Candidates in Your Riding:**

1. What will you and your party do to help end violence against women? Do you know anything about the level of femicide in your riding?
2. Do you support the continuation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence?
3. How will you ensure that more safe, accessible, and affordable housing is available for women fleeing violence?
4. Will you commit to increased, long-term funding for women's rights and gender justice organizations, including grassroots advocates, to carry out their critical work?
5. Canada could lead the world on Sustainable Development Goal # 5 "achieving gender equality and

empowering all women and girls” but we need to make this a priority. How will your government rise to the challenge to achieve a fair and equal future for all women?

\* If speaking to the incumbent, consider asking how their voting record while an MP has supported women’s rights, gender justice, and ending VAW and GBV.