

1. Will your party maintain in cabinet a dedicated Minister of Women and Gender Equality Canada?

Absolutely. The Bloc Québécois was outraged to see that one of the Carney government's first acts was to sacrifice Woman and Gender Equality Canada, when so much remains to be done. Regardless of the composition of the current cabinet, the Bloc Québécois will always have a spokesperson for the Status of Women and Gender Equality. Whether it be criminal matters or interference in health and social programs, the Bloc Québécois wishes to protect the prerogative of the Quebec government, whose response systems are integrated.

Answer to questions 2, 3 and 5.

- 2. Will your party implement a comprehensive and measurable transparency and accountability framework through an independent oversight body to track progress on the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence?**
- 3. Will your party commit to increasing long-term funding for women's rights and gender justice organizations, including grassroots advocates, so they can carry out their important work?**
- 5. How will your party ensure that more safe, accessible and affordable housing is available for women fleeing violence?**

Equality between men and women has always been a central value at the heart of the Quebec social model, and violence against women is a consequence of the denial - conscious or otherwise - of this principle. Finding concrete solutions to present to the federal government can be challenging.

The Bloc Québécois is of the opinion that we must value Quebec's agency as the Quebec government is already working, in concert with community groups, to develop coherent health and social services policies focused on education, rehabilitation and justice.

The network is in place, but resources are lacking. Quebec must remain in charge of the main measures, since they must be effective, targeted and coherent to avoid duplication of effort as much as possible.

If some say that now is not the time for skill wars, we say, it's not the time for duplicate measures and redundancies. The two levels of government have complementary roles and must unite in the fight against violence. Quebec and the provinces are responsible for prevention, awareness, professional orders, health care as well as social and legal services under Quebec law and police forces (provincial and municipal), and the administration of justice.

There's no denying that the federal government has a role to play in resolving these major issues of intimate partner violence. Indeed, it must act on the issue of strengthening the Criminal Code and training judges to deal with intimate partner violence, but above all, it

must act on the issue of federal health transfers to adequately fund the health and social services systems of the provinces and Quebec, which, let's not forget, is a unanimous demand of all the provinces.

4. Will your party commit to naming femicide in the Canadian Criminal Code?

The concept of femicide is still not recognized in the Criminal Code, and there is no penalty for it. Use of the term in the courts is fairly recent, with a Quebec Superior Court judge defining femicide as a crime "in which the sex of the victim is a factor". More frequent and publicized, these crimes have surged in recent years; the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability has counted 850 women and girls having been violently killed between 2018 and 2022. 96 of them were Quebec women.

The Bloc Québécois supports increased penalties for crimes committed in the context of domestic or family violence, when a crime is committed against a person in a vulnerable position, or when a crime is motivated by hatred of a particular sex, sexual orientation or gender