WOMEN'S SHELTERS CANADA | HÉBERGEMENT FEMMES CANADA

Policy Shifts

Canadian Legislative Changes Impacting Violence Against Women

January – June 2024

Legislation

National Legislative Changes Impacting Violence Against Women in Canada

- **Bill C-62 (An Act to amend an Act to amend the Criminal Code [medical assistance in dying])** prevents people struggling with mental illnesses from getting medical assistance in dying. This bill received Royal Assent. *Feb 2024*
- **Bill C-63 (Online Harms Bill)** seeks to protect Canadians from harmful content online, increasing online organizations' accountability and responsibility regarding online content. This bill is in second reading in the House of Commons. *Feb 2024*
- **Bill C-376 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code [orders prohibiting the possession of weapons])** prohibits individuals from possessing a weapon for a determined period if they are convicted for using, threatening to use, or attempting to use violence against a person. This bill passed first reading in the House of Commons. *Feb 2024*
- **Bill S-205 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make consequential amendments to another Act [interim release and domestic violence recognizance orders])** requires electronic monitoring bracelets to be worn by accused abusers while awaiting trial; they are required for those who are under a court order to stay away from a victim as well. This bill is at the report stage in the House of Commons. *Feb 2024*
- **Bill S-232 (Health-Centered Approach to Substance Use Act**) seeks to develop a national strategy to decriminalize simple possession of illegal substances. This bill is under consideration in the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science, and Technology. *Apr 2024*
- **Bill S-249 (An Act respecting the development of a national strategy for the prevention of intimate partner violence)** develops a nation-wide strategy to prevent and combat IPV. This bill is under consideration in the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science, and Technology. *May 2024*
- **Bill C-320 (An Act to amend the corrections and conditional release act [disclosure of information to victims])** mandates that all information disclosed to a victim of an offence regarding eligibility and review dates applicable must include an explanation of how the dates were determined. This bill is under consideration in the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. *May 2024*
- **Bill C-332 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code (controlling or coercive conduct))** criminalizes the exercise of coercive control against an intimate partner. This bill passed first reading in the Senate. *June 2024*

Consultation

Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Status of Women

- **Women's Economic Empowerment.** *Started Nov 2023. In process*
- **Human Trafficking of Women, Girls and Gender Diverse People.** *Report presented Feb 2024*
- A **Red Dress Alert** would warn Canadians when an Indigenous woman, girl, or Two-Spirit person goes missing. *Started Mar 2024. In process*
- **Coercive Behaviour.** *Started May 2024. In process*

Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying. *Report presented Jan 2024*

Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities

- **Federal Housing Investments.** *Started May 2024. In process*

Publications

Statistics Canada

- **Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2022** *Jan 2024*
- **Recent trends in police-reported clearance status of sexual assault and other violent crime in Canada, 2017 to 2022,** *Mar 2024*
- **Canadian residential facilities for victims of abuse, 2022-2023,** *Apr 2024*

Ending Violence Association (EVA) Canada

- **Roadmap to a Stronger Gender-Based Violence Workforce,** *Mar 2024*

Women's Shelters Canada (WSC)

- **Feminist Brain Drain,** *Mar 2024*