



Policy Shifts

Canadian Legislative Changes Impacting Violence Against Women

January – June 2026

Legislation

National Legislative Changes Impacting Violence Against Women in Canada

- **Bill C-221 (An Act to amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act [disclosure of information to victims])** discloses information to the victim of an offence regarding an offender's temporary release or parole. Passed second reading in the House of Commons and referred to the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security. *Feb 2026*
- **Bill C-223 (An Act to amend the Divorce Act [Keeping Children Safe Act])** ensures lawyers screen for signs of family violence, provides judges with the tools to recognize the impact of coercive control on children, ensures children's voices are heard, and prevents parenting decisions from being influenced by myths or stereotypes about domestic violence. Passed second reading in the House of Commons and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. *Feb 2026*
- **Bill C-225 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code)** addresses intimate partner violence by creating specific offences and increasing detention periods. This includes the recognition of femicide and would make the killing of an intimate partner an automatic first-degree offence. Received Royal Assent. *Jun 2026*
- **Bill C-235 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code [increasing parole ineligibility])** extends parole ineligibility for individuals convicted of select crimes, including abduction, sexual assault, and murder. Completed consideration in the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. *Jun 2026*
- **Bill C-236 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and the Prisons and Reformatory Act)** adds refusal to provide persons in authority with information regarding the location of bodies or remains as an aggravating factor for sentencing and for delay of parole, for a person convicted of certain offences. Passed second reading in the House of Commons and referred to the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security. *Mar 2026*

- **Bill C-238 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code [restitution orders])** sets out certain types of restitution to be made to people who provide frontline services, including emergency and victim support services. Passed second reading in the House of Commons, and under consideration by the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. *Jun 2026*
- **Bill C-246 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code [consecutive sentences for sexual offences])** required sentences for sexual offences to be served consecutively. Bill defeated. *Mar 2026*
- **Bill C-275 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code [sexual assault material])** makes it an offence to carry out certain activities in relation to visual recordings depicting non-consensual sexual activity. Passed first reading in the House of Commons. *Apr 2026*
- **Bill C-277 (An Act to provide for the regulation of the online use of deepfakes and for related transparency measures)** requires regulation of the online use and dissemination of deepfakes. This would establish administrative monetary penalties to promote compliance. Passed first reading in the House of Commons. *May 2026*
- **Bill C-9 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code Commons [hate propaganda, hate crime and access to religious or cultural places])** makes it a crime to intimidate and obstruct those accessing places of worship, schools, and community spaces; makes a hate crime a specific offence; and makes it a crime to promote hate against an identifiable group by displaying terrorism or hate symbols in public. Hate crimes include crimes based on sex and gender. Received Royal Assent. *Jun 2026*
- **Bill C-12 (An Act respecting certain measures relating to the security of Canada's borders and the integrity of the Canadian immigration system and respecting other related security measures)** maintains much of Bill C-2, including provisions related to immigration and border enforcement, but has removed some of the more controversial elements, including privacy and data-sharing clauses. Received Royal Assent. *Mar 2026*
- **Bill C-14 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and the National Defence Act [bail and sentencing])** focuses on stricter bail and sentencing for violent offenders. Received Royal Assent. *Jun 2026*
- **Bill C-16 (An Act to amend certain Acts in relation to criminal and correctional matters [child protection, gender-based violence, delays and other measures])** creates an offence for engaging in a pattern of coercive conduct; an offence of femicide is also created and would

carry a charge of first-degree murder. The definition of the non-consensual distribution of intimate images is expanded to include deepfakes and sextortion. Criminal harassment is amended to capture tech-facilitated gender-based violence. Summary conviction for sexual assault increases from 18 months to 2 years, less a day. This also includes several changes that are aimed at protecting children from predators, particularly sextortion, sex tourism, and expanding child sexual offences. Finally, several amendments to victims' rights are proposed, along with changes to address court delays. Received Royal Assent. *Jun 2026*

- **Bill C-20 (An Act respecting the establishment of Build Canada Homes)** establishes Build Canada Homes as a Crown Corporation, promoting, supporting, and developing the supply of affordable housing in Canada. Received Royal Assent. *Jun 2026*
- **Bill C-34 (An Act to enact the Digital Safety Act and the Digital Safety Commission of Canada Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts)** promotes safety and reduces the harms of harmful online content. It would also ensure that social media services, online chatbots, and other online services are transparent and accountable. Passed first reading in the House of Commons and referred to the Senate Committee on Human Rights. *May 2026*
- **Bill S-209 (An Act to restrict young persons' online access to pornographic material)** makes it an offence for organizations to make pornographic materials available to young people on the internet. Passed first reading in the House of Commons. *Apr 2026*
- **Bill S-228 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code [sterilization procedures])** establishes an offence with regard to sterilization procedures. Without valid consent, these acts constitute aggravated assault. Received Royal Assent. *Jun 2026*
- **Bill S-235 (An Act respecting the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking)** requires the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to maintain and update the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking and address the harms caused by human trafficking. Passed second reading in the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Human Rights. *May 2026*
- **Bill S-242 (An Act respecting national action for the prevention of intimate partner violence)** provides for the continuation of national action for the prevention of intimate partner violence. Passed first reading in the House of Commons. *May 2026*

Consultation

Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Status of Women

- [Abuse and Financial Vulnerability of Senior Women](#). Started Mar 2026. In process
- [Role and Capacity of Women's Shelters and Transitional Housing to Support Women and Girls in Canada](#). Started May 2026. In process
- [Section 810 of the Criminal Code and Women's Safety \(Peace Bonds\)](#). Report presented to the House in May 2026. In process
- [Antifeminist Ideology](#). Report presented to the House in Jun 2026. In process

Publications

Statistics Canada

- [Crimes related to the sex trade in Canada, 2020 to 2024](#), Feb 2026
- [Gender differences in experiences of violence and unwanted sexual behaviour in Canada, 2025](#), Mar 2026
- [Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2024](#), Apr 2026
- [Recontact with police among child and youth victims of violent crime, 2010 to 2024](#), Apr 2026
- [Canadian residential facilities for victims of abuse, 2024/2025](#), May 2026
- [Perceptions of gender-based violence and gender equality, identity and expression in Canada, 2025](#), May 2026
- [Police-reported mass casualty events in Canada, 2010 to 2024](#), Jun 2026

Women and Gender Equality Canada

- [2024-2025 Annual Progress Report on the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence](#), Jun 2026

Women's Shelters Canada

- [Sheltering Under Pressure: Frontline Realities of Canada's Violence Against Women Shelters and Transition Houses](#), Mar 2026