WOMEN'S SHELTERS CANADA | HÉBERGEMENT FEMMES CANADA

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ENDVAW.CA

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On the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (GBV):

Statement from a Coalition of GBV Organizations

The announcement of $607.4 million in July 2026 to continue the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (NAP) has been a cause for celebration. The gender-based violence (GBV) sector has been advocating for the continuation of both the funding and the plan over recent years, and we are excited to not only see this announcement, but also the increase in funding from the first phase of implementation of the plan. This speaks to both the federal government's commitment to addressing GBV and the power of collective advocacy.

The NAP, announced in November 2022 after more than a decade of advocacy by GBV organizations and experts from across the country, fulfilled an international commitment to have a national plan to address GBV. Emerging from sustained advocacy and expertise from survivors, frontline organizations, Indigenous leaders and GBV advocates, the promise of this plan was to ensure that every survivor in Canada had the necessary support and services to fully heal from the trauma of GBV. The current outline was negotiated and launched by federal, provincial and territorial governments. Implementation and funding allocation in its first phase have raised the profile of GBV in Canada. Discussions and awareness of GBV have increased, particularly in the media. The NAP also activated new funding streams, enabling ongoing support and the emergence of several new initiatives.

We continue to be hopeful and reassured by the announcement of renewed investments in the NAP, building on the successes of the first implementation phase. During this phase, both the federal government and the provinces and territories invested in recognizing and addressing femicide, technology-facilitated GBV, financial abuse, traumatic brain injury, and coercive control. Given the work left to do, and the rise in femicide rates, increased wait lists for services, overcapacity at shelters and perpetrators' misuse of new technology, there is an opportunity to further address GBV in the ways we outline below.

1. **We ask the government of Canada for full accountability and transparency in the next five years of the NAP.**

The first phase of the NAP suffered from a general lack of transparency and accountability. The full bilateral agreements have never been made publicly available, and the annual list of actions (Schedule B) and cost-sharing budget (Schedule C) are available for the first two

years only and have not been released in a timely way. To date, Schedules B and C have not been released for 2025/26 or 2026/27 for any province or territory, and they have not been released for 2024/25 for Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador. In addition, because Alberta and Quebec have unique accountability expectations, it is impossible to access any details of their actions or cost-sharing.

1.1 We call for the regular, timely, predictable production of annual reports and reliable reporting timelines.

The lack of transparency about how funds are allocated and what actions they support makes it difficult to see progress on the NAP. While there is a general description of where the funds are allocated, annual reports must be produced in a timely manner and contain detailed information. For example, some sections refer to the number of resources, but they do not describe what kinds of resources are available, how they are used, or who accesses them. Greater accountability through sharing the annual allocation list as well as up-to-date production of annual reports and reporting timelines will more effectively engage civil society in a nationwide effort to scale successes and address gaps together. The NAP GBV is an amazing opportunity to develop a cross-Canada portrait of efforts to end GBV and to find innovative ways that could be scaled and adapted.

1.2 We ask for the creation of a GBV Commissioner with ombudsperson-like powers.

A GBV Commissioner would not only bring greater oversight to the NAP, but also to GBV as a whole, including monitoring Canada's compliance with international agreements like CEDAW. Having such an office would also strengthen engagement with the GBV sector at the national level.

1.3 We need improved accountability frameworks that help see how data is rolled up from the provinces related to the funding invested.

While we understand these data cannot be disaggregated in some respects to safeguard confidential information, it would be beneficial for data to be separated out across pillars, types of investment, and individual actions either across the whole country or by province/territory. In order to track investments in real time, planned spending for every action in the agreements, pillar by pillar, should be shared going forward along with timelier public-facing communication like reports and action plans, and the signed bilateral agreements. Provincial and territorial governments should demonstrate what direct-service capacity was created or sustained, including the number and type of frontline positions and services funded, their geographic reach, and whether access and wait times improved.

2. We call for more predictable, multi-year funding including administrative costs that fills important service gaps, in particular to ensure sexual assault crisis organizations are no longer excluded.

As service providers face heightened demand, we require stable funding to maintain critical supports. This would enable service providers to focus on their mission rather than the operational stresses these arrangements create for staff. The increase in resources to the

Canada-wide GBV sector is positive, but we are concerned about the project-based funding protocol outlined in Schedule B. Project-based funding strategies constrain capacity in several ways: by restricting organizational responsiveness in times of emerging or urgent needs; by imposing a higher administrative burden on organizations; and in generating worker precarity when there is no long-term horizon for dependable and sustainable funding. Across regions, we require funding consistency organized in accordance with national priorities, including explicit support for sexual assault crisis centres; regional, rural, remote and northern access; and support for Indigenous-led and other by-and-for organizations.

2.1 We call for multi-year, comprehensive funding models for GBV service providers, including coverage of administrative costs.

2.2 We call for sexual assault crisis centres to be named as an explicitly designated funding stream.

3. We ask for true engagement and consultation with the survivors and GBV organizations.

Engaging with the service providers on the ground most connected to survivors of GBV, whether shelters, sexual assault crisis centres, community services, or GBV organizations, provides all levels of government with tactical and timely information on what is most needed, as well as what the successes have been to date. However, engagement within provinces and territories has been very mixed. While some regions, like PEI, have formed government advisory tables and actively sought input from organizations, much of the sector has not been adequately consulted. Similarly, at the national level, organizations have been brought together infrequently as an opportunity for information to be shared with them, without a meaningful space for engagement and provision of feedback. This is another lost opportunity to build a truly integrated GBV plan that includes all services.

Creating a formal role for frontline GBV organizations in implementation and decision-making, including priority-setting, funding design, monitoring, and evaluation would help ensure sector expertise is in place before decisions are made.

We need planned and scaled consultations carried out with civil society based on gathering both concrete ideas and significant feedback. A yearly schedule, outlining what will be asked of organizations and when, as well as alignment with the pillars of the plan is essential. We need to co-create a clear plan on how our consultations and suggestions move ahead with the government. Engagement must be connected to action, so the sector can see recommendations move through the government. This is a clear way to track systemic change.

3.1 We call for a published, annual consultation schedule, co-created with GBV civil society organizations, outlining what will be asked of the sector and when, with clear alignment to the NAP's pillars.

3.2 We call for a formal feedback loop connecting consultation to action. Such a mechanism would clearly demonstrate how the government is engaging with sector recommendations.

4. We call for a greater focus on the national opportunities to address GBV.

When the NAP was tabled, it was heralded as a joint effort, including all Canadians with a vision to live in a Canada free of GBV. This is a shared vision and responsibility. Yet the Canadian plan continues to be fragmented. By signing bilateral agreements and distributing nearly all funds to the regions, there is little ability to implement national projects. There are examples of projects being implemented at the provincial or territorial level that could be valuable nationally, yet we continue to fragment the funds and therefore the potential impact of the NAP.

While the provinces and territories face unique challenges, there are commonalities across the country in the rates and experiences of GBV. By addressing this in a piecemeal way, we are losing opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing. This also contributes to the ongoing challenge of survivors experiencing vast variability in policy, services, programs, and supports as they move throughout the country.

4.1 We call for dedicated national-level funding streams, separate from the bilateral agreements, to scale promising provincial/territorial initiatives across the country.

4.2 We call for a national coordination mechanism to reduce the variability survivors currently experience in services and support as they move between jurisdictions, and the setting of national standards for support.

List of Recommendations

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List of Endorsers

National
Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada
Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
Brain Injury Canada
Canadian Centre for Housing Rights
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
Canadian Council of Muslim Women
Canadian Labour Congress
DAWN Canada
Disability Without Poverty
Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada
Moose Hide Campaign
National Association of Women and the Law
Nisa Foundation
Oxfam Canada
Queer Momentum
Sakeenah Canada
The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies
Unifor
Women's Centre for Social Justice (WomenatthecentrE)
Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network
Women's Shelters Canada
YWCA Canada

Alberta
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters
Brooks and District Women's Safe Shelter Society (Cantara House)
Camrose Women's Shelter
Catholic Social Services
Central Alberta Outreach Society
Discovery House
Fairview & District Women's Centre Association OAS Crossroads Resource Centre & Women's Shelter
Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association o/a Odyssey House
Heart Home Network
Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation
Maskan Family Association
Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society
Mountain Rose Women's Shelter Association
Northern Haven Support Society
True North Society
Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre

YWCA Calgary
YWCA Lethbridge & District

British Columbia
AccessBC
ACT 2 Child and Family Services
Ann Davis Transition Society
Battered Women's Support Services
BC Association of Social Workers
BC Native Women's Association
BC Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH)
BWSS Battered Women's Support Services Association
Canadian Labour Congress
Carnegie Housing Project
Central Okanagan Emergency Shelter Society
Comox Valley Transition Society
Cowichan Women Against Violence
Desert Sun Counselling and Resource Centre
Elkford Women's Task Force Society
Fireweed Collective Society
Fort St. John Women's Resource Society
Golden Women's Resource Centre
Haven Society
Inform'Elles
Ishtar Women's Resource Society
Islanders Working Against Violence Society
Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry Society
Kootenai Community Centre Society
Northern Society for Domestic Peace
Omineca Safe Home Society
PearlSpace Support Services Society
Princeton Family Services Society
Progressive Intercultural Community Services
qathet SAFE
Sage Haven Society
Salvation Army Kate Booth House
Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Society
Tamitik Status of Women
The Campbell River and North Island Transition Society
Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society
Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter
Victoria Women's Transition House Society
Westcoast Community Resources Society
Xolhemet Society -Wilmas Transition House

YWCA BC

Manitoba
ChezRachel/L'Entre-temps des Franco-manitobaines inc.
Eastman Crisis Centre Inc. - Agape House
First Nation Healing Centre inc.
FNHC Second Stage Urban Housing
Ikwe Widdjiitiwin Inc
NCN Noosi Muskwa Women's Shelter
Swan Valley Crisis Centre Inc.
Thompson Crisis Centre INC.
Willow Place Inc.

New Brunswick
Crossroads for Women
Fundy Region Transition House Inc.
Hestia House Inc.
L'Accueil Sainte-Famille inc.
Liberty Lane Inc.
Maison de Passage House Inc.
Maison Notre-Dame House Inc.

Newfoundland & Labrador
Hope Haven Inc
Mushuau Innu Health Commission
Rigolet Partnership Against Family Violence
The Transition House Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

Northwest Territories
Family Support Centre

Nova Scotia
Chrysalis House Association
South Shore Transition House Association
Tearmann Society for Abused Women
Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (THANS)

Nunavut
Kitikmeot Friendship Society
The Kataujaq Society

Ontario
Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes
Anduhyuan Inc

Anova: A Future Without Violence
Armagh
Bethesda House
Bien ici - Centre de santé mentale et services communautaires
Carrefour des femmes du Sud-Ouest de l'ontario
Centre de sante communautaire Hamilton-Niagara Inc.
Centre Novas-CALACS francophone de Prescott-Russell
Centre Victoria pour femmes
Centr'Elles
Chapleau Hornepayne Algoma District Women in Crisis Inc
Chatham Kent Women's Centre
Colibri - Centre des femmes francophones du comté de Simcoe
Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre
Counselling and Family Service Ottawa
Domestic Abuse Services Oxford / Ingamo Homes
Ellevive
Family Transition Place
Green Haven Shelter for Women
Huronia Transition Homes
Imani's Place
Interlude
Interval House of Ottawa
Maison d'amitié
Maison d'hébergement pour femmes francophones – La maison
Marjorie House
Mission Services of Hamilton Inc.
My Friends House
Naomis Family Resource Centre
Oasis Centre des femmes
OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses
Perth County Transition Home for Women
REFLEXION Wellness Services
Reseau-Femmes du sud-ouest de l'Ontario
South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario
The Denise House
The Emily Murphy Centre
Three Oaks Foundation
Timmins and Area Women in Crisis
Women & Children's Shelter Barrie
Women & Youth Crisis Centre Grey Bruce
WomenatthecentrE
Women's Centre for Social Justice
Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region

Women's Habitat of Etobicoke
Women's Hostels Inc.
Women's Rural Resource Centre-Strathroy & Area
Woodgreen Red Door Family Shelter
YWCA Durham
YWCA Hamilton
YWCA Peterborough Haliburton

Prince Edward Island
PEI Family Violence Prevention Services Inc.

Quebec
Atikamekw Sipi - Conseil de la Nation Atikamekw
Auberge Shalom
Autour d'elles, maison d'aide et d'hébergement
L'Autre Chez-Soi
Carrefour pour Elle
Centre Féminin du Saguenay
Hébergement La Passerelle
HORIZON POUR ELLE
Inter-Val 1175
La Débrouille
La maison communautaire missinak
La Maison grise de Montréal
La Re-Source shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence
La Rose des Vents de Drummond inc.
La Séjournelle
L'Arrêt-Source Inc.
Le Centre Mechtilde
Les Maisons de l'Ancre
L'Escale de l'Estrie
l'Escale pour Elle
Maison d'aide et d'hébergement le Mitan inc.
Maison d'aide et d'hébergement L'Émergence
Maison Dalauze
Maison de Lina
Maison d'Hébergement d'Anjou
Maison d'hébergement l'Aquarelle
Maison d'hébergement le Rivage de La Baie et du Bas-Saguenay
Maison d'Hébergement Pour Elles Des Deux Vallées
Maison d'INGRID
Maison du coeur pour femmes
Maison Hélène Lacroix
Maison Marie-Rollet

Mirépi, maison d'hébergement
PasserElle
Regard en Elle
Regroup'elles
YWCA Québec

Saskatchewan
Moose Jaw Women's Transition Association, Inc.
North East Outreach and Support Services, Inc.
Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS)
Regina Transition House
SOFIA House
TFHQ Safe Shelters Incorporated – WISH Safe House
Yorkton Tribal Council Safe Haven
YWCA Regina Inc

Yukon
Help and Hope for Families Society
Yukon Women's Transition Home Society