

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CANADA'S NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

FINDINGS FROM THE MARCO-VAW STUDY IN THE GREATER TORONTO AREA DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Canadian Government has committed to developing a national action plan (NAP) to address violence against women (VAW).

Our recommendations were informed by a formal qualitative analysis of the perspectives of leaders, service providers, and survivors from Canada's largest city on what should be considered in Canada's NAP on VAW.



1. Invest in VAW services and increase accessibility of crisis supports

Increase Public Awareness



- Public information campaigns on VAW and the availability of crisis supports
- Shift public discourse on gender and violence
- Avoid traumatizing and stigmatizing language

Expand Organizational Capacity



- Increase the number of VAW organizations that can provide in-house wraparound supports
- Increased, flexible, funding to VAW organizations
- Greater sustained investment into trauma-informed mental health supports



Strengthen VAW Referrals

- Resource a centralized referral system for VAW supports
- Increase accessibility for survivors (incl. virtual chat lines and on-demand language interpretation)
- Increase collaboration between crisis lines & VAW organizations

2. Enhance Structural Supports for VAW Survivors



Invest in the Full Housing Continuum

- From short-term shelter to long-term housing with supports for VAW survivors



Equitable Laws and Policies

- Strengthen housing, economic, legal, childcare, employment, and educational options and opportunities

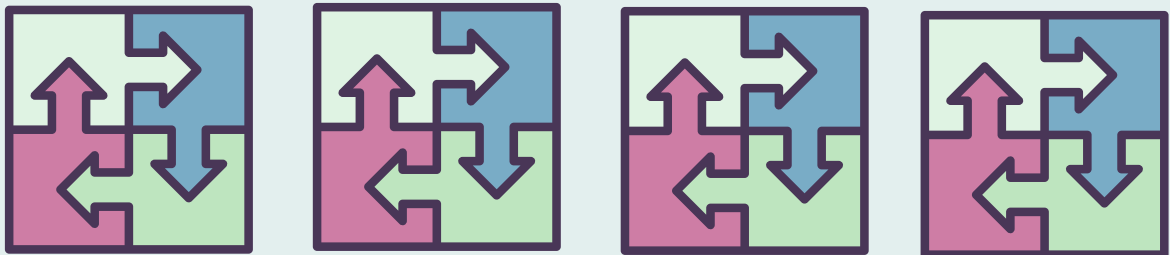
3. Strengthen Coordinated Responses

With the Healthcare System

- Develop and sustain a workforce of trained VAW advocates based in the healthcare system

With the Justice System

- VAW and anti-racist training for justice system actors and embedded VAW advocates
- Referrals for all VAW survivors
- Prevent continued patterns of abuse against survivors within the justice system by perpetrators or professionals



4. Implement and Evaluate Primary Prevention Strategies

Collaborate with Provincial Education Systems

- Age-appropriate curricula to prevent VAW that covers healthy relationships and gender expression and what constitutes violence

Engage Boys and Men in VAW prevention

- Supportive interventions to boys and men without limiting funding for women-centred supports

Redistributive and gender transformative policies

- Equitable social and economic supports and resources available to women

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Source: Yakubovich A. R., Steele, B., Moses, C., Tremblay, E., Arcenal, M., O'Campo, P., Mason, R., Du Mont, J., Huijbregts, M., Hough, L., Sim, A., & Shastri, P. (2023). Recommendations for Canada's National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence: perspectives from leaders, service providers, and survivors in Canada's largest city during the COVID-19 pandemic. Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Journal.