



Safety Changes Everything

Canada's National Action Plan on Gender-based Violence

The Next Phase Must Reach the Frontline

There is much to welcome in today's announcement.

The Government of Canada's commitment of \$607.4 million over four years signals that ending gender-based violence remains a national priority and builds on years of work by survivors, advocates, Indigenous leaders, researchers, governments and frontline organizations to establish Canada's National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

BWSS is proud to have been part of those earliest national conversations and to have co-chaired the Support for Survivors and Their Families pillar that helped shape the National Action Plan. We recognize today's announcement as an important reaffirmation of that long-term commitment.

Now comes the next phase: implementation.

A national action plan is only as effective as its execution.

Over the coming months, provinces and territories will receive their share of this investment, including British Columbia through the implementation of Safe and Supported: British Columbia's Gender-Based Violence Action Plan. We look forward to seeing how these investments are distributed and, most importantly, how they reach the specialized frontline organizations that meet with victims and survivors every day.

The true measure of success will not simply be the size of the investment announced. It will be whether frontline organizations experience stronger operational capacity, a more stable specialized workforce, and increased ability to respond to the changing realities of intimate partner violence.

Since the National Action Plan was first conceived, our understanding of intimate partner violence has evolved significantly. Frontline organizations are increasingly

responding to coercive control, non-fatal strangulation, firearms-related intimidation, technology-facilitated abuse, post-separation violence and other indicators associated with escalating lethality and femicide risk. As our understanding of intimate partner violence has advanced, specialized responses have evolved alongside it.

The next phase of implementation should ensure that investments strengthen this specialized expertise.

As governments begin allocating these funds, we look forward to understanding how much will directly strengthen specialized frontline organizations. How much will support operational capacity? How much will stabilize the specialized workforce? How much will build the expertise needed to respond to coercive control, non-fatal strangulation, firearms-related risk, technology-facilitated abuse and other forms of escalating intimate partner violence?

The National Action Plan represents an important commitment.

Its lasting legacy, however, will be measured by whether victims and survivors can access the specialized support they need, when they need it, and that frontline organizations have experienced an increase in their capacity to respond.

That is how national commitments become real safety.

Background

Canada's National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (NAP) was launched in November 2022 as a 10-year federal, provincial and territorial framework to create a coordinated national approach to preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

The National Action Plan is organized around five pillars:

1. Support for Victims, Survivors and Their Families
2. Prevention
3. Responsive Justice System
4. Implementing Indigenous-led Approaches
5. Social Infrastructure and an Enabling Environment

The Plan is supported by a foundation focused on leadership, coordination, research, data, accountability and reporting.

The National Action Plan builds on more than a decade of advocacy and collaboration by survivors, Indigenous leaders, frontline organizations, researchers and governments. In 2021, Women Shelters Canada convened national expert working groups to develop recommendations that informed the National Action Plan. Those recommendations emphasized coordinated systems, integrated services, sustained operational funding, intersectional practice, and supports centred on Safety, Healing and Justice.

BWSS participated in the earliest development of the National Action Plan and co-chaired the national Support for Survivors and Their Families Working Group.

Implementation of the National Action Plan occurs through bilateral agreements between the Government of Canada and every province and territory. Each jurisdiction has developed its own implementation plan while contributing to the shared national framework.

Federal Investment

- 2022: Government of Canada committed \$539.3 million over five years, including \$525 million through bilateral agreements with provinces and territories.
- 2023–2024: Federal bilateral funding totaled \$75 million.
- 2024–2025: Federal bilateral funding increased to \$150 million.
- 2024–2025: Combined federal, provincial and territorial investments reached \$753 million.
- July 16, 2026: Government of Canada announced an additional \$607.4 million over four years to continue implementation of the National Action Plan and renew support for provincial and territorial crisis lines.

2024–2025 Federal Allocations by Province and Territory

Ontario-\$47.784 million

Quebec-\$28.550 million

British Columbia-\$18.048 million

Alberta-\$15.688 million

Manitoba-\$6.248 million

Saskatchewan-\$5.658 million

Nova Scotia-\$5.068 million

New Brunswick-\$4.478 million

Northwest Territories-\$4.118 million

Nunavut-\$4.118 million

Yukon-\$4.118 million

Newfoundland and Labrador-\$3.652 million

Prince Edward Island-\$2.472 million

Total federal allocation to provinces and territories (2024–2025): \$150 million.

British Columbia - Safe and Supported

British Columbia's implementation framework is Safe and Supported: British Columbia's Gender-Based Violence Action Plan.

The plan focuses on four priorities:

- Increasing safety and supports for survivors.
- Advancing Indigenous-led approaches.
- Breaking cycles of violence through prevention, healing and accountability.
- Learning from implementation through monitoring and evaluation.

Under the Canada-British Columbia bilateral agreement, the Government of Canada committed approximately \$62 million over four years (2023–2027) to support implementation of Safe and Supported, alongside matching pre-established provincial investments.