IT'S TIME: CANADA'S STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



IT'S TIME TO ACT

RECENT FEDERAL ACTIONS

In order to prevent and address gender-based violence (GBV), the Government of Canada recognizes the need for an approach that is comprehensive, inclusive, and based on solid evidence.

In Budget 2016, investments to prevent and address GBV included:

- funding for shelters and transition housing for individuals fleeing family violence; and
- the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

RESPONDING TO THE UNFOUNDED INVESTIGATION

Following an investigation by the Globe and Mail into the rates of unfounded sexual assault cases in Canada, Statistics Canada has established a standardized process which will allow for the collection and use of quality statistics on unfounded criminal incidents, including sexual assaults. This follows close consultation with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The first results are expected to be published in July 2018.

Related investments were also made for Family Information Liaison Units in each province and territory and culturally grounded services and supports for family members of missing or murdered Indigenous women.

CHANGES TO THE CRIMINAL CODE

Legislation introduced by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada on June 6, 2017, reflects the Government of Canada's ongoing commitment to ensure that victims of sexual assault and gender-based violence are treated with the utmost compassion and respect. This legislation would make several amendments to clarify and strengthen the sexual assault provisions in the *Criminal Code*.

In 2017, the Government of Canada announced \$100.9 million over five years, and \$20.7 million per year ongoing, to establish a strategy to address GBV. The Gender-Based Violence Knowledge Centre will be created within Status of Women Canada, to better align existing resources across government to address GBV.

Budget 2017 also announced a range of other actions that will help to bolster the impact of the Strategy:

ACTION	PROGRAM	BUDGET	OBJECTIVES
PREVENTION	Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples	\$118.5 million over five years	Provide support to organizations that offer programs and services to help meet the needs of urban Indigenous Peoples, support their transition to life in an urban centre, or reduce their vulnerability (e.g., help women transition out of shelters, parenting programs).

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ACTION	PROGRAM	BUDGET	OBJECTIVES
SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES	National Housing Fund	\$5 billion over 11 years	Address critical housing issues, which will prioritize support for populations with distinct needs, including survivors fleeing family violence.
	Expand Homelessness Partnering Strategy	\$2.1 billion over 11 years	Includes support for community projects tailored to the needs of homeless women such as survivors fleeing family violence.
	Increase mental health supports for First Nations and Inuit communities	\$204.2 million over five years	Deliver better health outcomes for First Nations and Inuit communities.
	Proposed changes to the Canada Labour Code		Provide federally regulated workers with new unpaid leave to seek care if they are victims of family violence.
RESPONSIVE LEGAL AND JUSTICE SYSTEMS	Support programming on judicial education, ethics and conduct	\$2.7 million over five years and \$0.5 million per year ongoing	Includes gender and diversity training for judges.
	Enhance the delivery of immigration and refugee legal aid services	\$62.9 million over five years, starting in 2017–18, and \$11.5 million per year thereafter	In partnership with the provinces and territories.
	Provide long- term and stable investment in the Indigenous Justice Program	\$55.5 million over five years, starting in 2017-18 and \$11.1 million per year ongoing	Provide funding for community-based programs that use restorative justice approaches as an alternative to the mainstream justice system and corrections.