

## KEY FACTS: Gendered Impacts of COVID-19

### Women on the Frontlines as Essential Workers

- Globally, women make up over 70% of health care workforce.<sup>1</sup>
- 56% of all women workers in Canada work in occupations designated the 5 C's – Clerical, Catering, Cashiering, Cleaning and Caring.<sup>2</sup>
- Women are disproportionately represented on the frontlines of COVID-19:<sup>3</sup>
  - 90% of nurses
  - 75% of respiratory therapists
  - 80% of those working in medical labs
  - 90% of personal support workers

### Upcoming Recession will be a 'She-cession'

- 63% of all workers who were laid off in March 2020 were women.<sup>4</sup>
- 1.8 million women either lost their job or lost hours in March 2020.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. (2019). 10 key issues in ensuring gender equity in the global health workforce. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/10-key-issues-in-ensuring-gender-equity-in-the-global-health-workforce>

<sup>2</sup> Close the Gap. 2014. "[Women and work: What comes next in a post-referendum Scotland?](#)" Close the Gap Working Paper 13. Glasgow: Close the Gap.

<sup>3</sup> Scott, K. (2020). Women bearing the brunt of economic losses: One in five has been laid off or had hours cut. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Retrieved from: <http://behindthenumbers.ca/2020/04/10/women-bearing-the-brunt-of-economic-losses-one-in-five-has-been-laid-off-or-had-hours-cut/>

<sup>4</sup> Scott, K. (2020). Women bearing the brunt of economic losses: One in five has been laid off or had hours cut. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Retrieved from: <http://behindthenumbers.ca/2020/04/10/women-bearing-the-brunt-of-economic-losses-one-in-five-has-been-laid-off-or-had-hours-cut/>

<sup>5</sup> Scott, K. (2020). Women bearing the brunt of economic losses: One in five has been laid off or had hours cut. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Retrieved from: <http://behindthenumbers.ca/2020/04/10/women-bearing-the-brunt-of-economic-losses-one-in-five-has-been-laid-off-or-had-hours-cut/>

## Home is Not Always a Safe Place

- Globally, there has been a rise in domestic violence during the crisis.<sup>6</sup>
  - China<sup>7</sup> – 50% increase in some parts
  - France<sup>8</sup> – 32-36% increase
  - Spain<sup>9</sup> – 18% more calls
  - UK<sup>10</sup>
  - Singapore<sup>11</sup>
  - US<sup>12</sup>
- In Canada, we've seen increases in reported cases of domestic violence.
  - York Regional Police<sup>13</sup> – 22%
  - Vancouver's Battered Women's Crisis Line – 300%

---

<sup>6</sup> UN Women. (2020). COVID-19 and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. Retrieved from: <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/issue-brief-covid-19-and-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5006>

<sup>7</sup> Vanderklippe, N. (2020, March 29). Domestic violence reports rise in China amid COVID-19 lockdown. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-domestic-violence-reports-rise-in-china-amid-covid-19-lockdown/>

<sup>8</sup> Godin, M. (2020, March 31). French Government to House Domestic Abuse Victims in Hotels as Cases Rise During Coronavirus Lockdown. *Time*. Retrieved from: <https://time.com/5812990/france-domestic-violence-hotel-coronavirus/>

<sup>9</sup> Taub, A. (2020, April 6). A New COVID-19 Crisis: Domestic Abuse Rises Worldwide. *New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/06/world/coronavirus-domestic-violence.html>

<sup>10</sup> Townsend, M. (2020, April 12). Revealed: surge in domestic violence during COVID-19 crisis. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/apr/12/domestic-violence-surges-seven-hundred-per-cent-uk-coronavirus#maincontent>

<sup>11</sup> Yang, W. (2020, April 9). Coronavirus: Rise in domestic violence cases as families forced to stay home. Retrieved from: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/coronavirus-rise-in-domestic-abuse-cases-as-families-forced-to-stay-home>

<sup>12</sup> Kingkade, T. (2020, April 5). Police see rise in domestic violence calls amid coronavirus lockdown. Retrieved from: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/police-see-rise-domestic-violence-calls-amid-coronavirus-lockdown-n1176151>

<sup>13</sup> York Regional Police. (2020, April 1). Recent crime trends in York Region and Crime Prevention Tips. Retrieved from: <https://www.yrp.ca/en/Modules/News/index.aspx?newsId=38c2ce0a-c9c6-42dc-846c-dc6515ab5bff>

Edmonton, Ottawa

### **Non-Profits and Charities Doing More with Less**

- Over 70% of the workforce in non-profits and charities is comprised of women in Ontario.<sup>15</sup>
- According to financial modelling by IMAGINE Canada, charities will lose between \$9.5 billion to \$15.7 billion in revenue and layoff between 117, 000 to 195, 000 in staff because of social distancing closures and a recession.<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> Humphreys, A. (2020, April 3). Crime in a time of COVID-19: How the pandemic is changing criminality in our neighbourhoods. National Post. Retrieved from: <https://nationalpost.com/news/crime-in-a-time-of-covid-19-how-the-pandemic-is-changing-criminality-in-our-neighbourhoods>

<sup>15</sup> Ontario Nonprofit Network. (2018). Decent Work for Women Literature Review. Retrieved from: [https://theonnc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/DecentWorkforWomenLiteratureReviewMarch2018\\_UpdatedNOV2018.pdf](https://theonnc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/DecentWorkforWomenLiteratureReviewMarch2018_UpdatedNOV2018.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Ayer, S., Lasby, D., & Emmett, B. (2020). Forecasted economic impacts of coronavirus on the charitable sector in 2020. Retrieved from: <https://live-imagine-canada.pantheonsite.io/sites/default/files/Forecasted%20economic%20impacts%20of%20coronavirus%20on%20the%20charitable%20sector%20in%202020.pdf>