

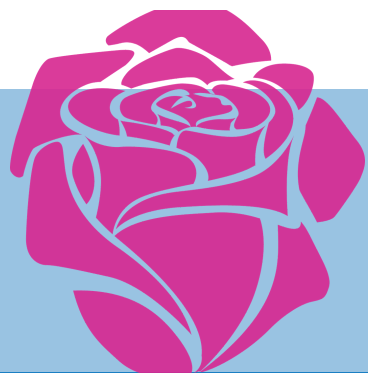
Who We Are

YWCA Canada is the national office of its 29 Member Associations. Our federation represents associations in nine provinces and two territories whose programs and services ensure that women and gender diverse people experiencing abuse, poverty, and homelessness can access services when and where they need them most.

Collectively, we are the largest operator of emergency shelters for women, the largest provider of employment services and counseling services to women, and the second-largest provider of childcare in Canada.

Our Impact Drivers as a Federation:

- Ending gender-based violence
- Providing safe and stable housing
- Achieving economic equity
- Championing childcare and women's wellbeing
- Empowering young diverse leaders
- Informing and shaping our feminist future



NATIONAL ADVOCACY. COMMUNITY ACTION.



YWCA Canada

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**Ending the
Epidemic of
Gender-Based
Violence and
Intimate Partner
Violence**



Gender-based violence (GBV) is any act of violence based on someone's gender, gender expression, gender identity or perceived gender. While we often think of it as "just physical" harm, GBV typically falls into these four categories: emotional, physical, financial, and sexual violence.

Intimate partner violence (IPV), also known as domestic or spousal violence and abuse, refers to violence that occurs within an intimate or domestic relationship, including physical, emotional, financial, and sexual abuse.

Groups at Higher Risk Of Experiencing GBV Include:

- Young women and girls (under age 25)
- Black and racialized women
- Indigenous women
- 2SLGBTQIA+ people
- Newcomers
- Women with disabilities
- Women living in Northern, rural or remote communities



The Cost of GBV in Canada

Personal Costs

- Survivors bear the greatest financial burden, facing both direct and indirect costs.
- Direct costs include medical and mental health support, legal fees, housing and relocation costs.
- Indirect costs stem from lost income and productivity.

National Costs

- A 2012 study found that GBV costs the Canadian GDP approximately \$8.4 billion annually (\$11.3 billion in 2025).
- In 2013, the annual cost of sexual assault and intimate partner violence was \$334 (\$445 in 2025) per person or \$9 billion (\$12 billion in 2025) for all of Canada.



LIVES ARE ON THE LINE: THE HUMAN COST OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN CANADA

48 hours

is how often a woman or girl is killed. 93% are killed by a male intimate partner or family member.

154

children were left without mothers in 2024 due to femicides.

1,000

women are turned away from Violence Against Women shelters every night due to capacity issues.

1 in 5

survivors who leave domestic violence shelters will return to live with their abuser, often due to a lack of financial resources.

YWCA Calls on the Government to:

Invest in the implementation of a nationally coordinated, survivor-centric, comprehensive 10-year National Action Plan to end violence against women.

Invest in gender-based violence prevention and intervention programs to address this crisis earlier and faster.

“

YWCA quite literally saved me and my kids at a time when I felt like I was sinking so deep into a hole that I couldn't get out of. You helped me stay afloat.

- YWCA support recipient