

We call on all elected Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, and candidates in the forthcoming election to commit to ending economic abuse in the context of domestic violence and make this a central part of their mandate.

Economic abuse is a deliberate pattern of control in which individuals interfere with a person's ability to acquire, use, and maintain domestic economic resources. Lack of access to domestic economic resources creates barriers to escaping violent relationships.

Some facts to support our request:

- Statistics Canada reported a 12% increase in domestic abuse calls since the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown. The actual number of cases is likely to be significantly higher.
- Historically it has been observed that forced confinement due to emergencies result in spikes of domestic abuse.
- Women from marginalized groups including newcomers, refugees, racialized, and Indigenous women are at a higher risk of domestic economic abuse due to other systemic factors including poverty and limited access to social services and support systems.

We ask that federal MPs support the following 13 policy and legislative recommendations arising from the CCFWE National Taskforce on Economic Justice. These were drafted in consultations with key stakeholders, survivors and victims.

- 1) Government funding allocated to allow for financial education and to support community-based organizations to address domestic economic abuse. This includes resources for:
 - a) Shelters and other institutions for women to have the necessary resources to inform women of their rights in respect of financial management matters.
 - b) Ensure religious centers and newcomers' programs have necessary resources to provide accessible information on financial abuse and the social system in Canada.
- 2) Access to banking and financial services, both governmental and commercial.

- a) Banking policy reforms to include policies and procedures to identify, support and facilitate domestic economic abuse survivors.



- b) Government policy reform. Stakeholders recommended that the Federal Government create policies/programs with a trauma-informed lens (i.e., interest forgiveness on CRA Tax Penalty, etc).

3) Legal reform

- a) Family law reforms in consultations with stakeholders.

- b) Bankruptcy law reform. Stakeholders recommended that the Federal Government amend bankruptcy laws to support economic abuse survivors who are victims of violence and exploitation.

- 4) Access to justice. Stakeholders recommended that the Federal Government allocate funding to provinces to allow for free legal aid services to racialized BIPOC women survivors of IPV and economic abuse.

- 5) Early intervention programs through Federal and provincial government support.

- 6) Access to healthcare resources focused on supporting survivor-specific needs.

- 7) Legal recognition of financial abuse. Stakeholders recommended that the Federal Government must broaden the definition of domestic violence/intimate partner violence to recognize financial abuse within the wider category of economic abuse.

- 8) Financial support for survivors through both Federal and provincial assistance programs similar to other emergency relief programs.

- 9) Funding and support for grassroots organizations working with survivors.

- 10) Reforming law enforcement structures and institutions through sensitising and educational training programs specific to survivors' needs.

- 11) Support for Indigenous-led approaches and informed responses.

The CCFWE National Taskforce on Economic Resilience includes people with lived experience, community agencies, social justice and faith groups, the labour organizations, nonprofits, racial justice groups and employers.

We are asking that our elected officials commit to stand with survivors and victims of abuse, and push for evidence-based policies that give effect to the above-noted recommendations, thereby accelerating the economic empowerment of women.



We thank you, and look forward to hearing from you.

The Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) Team

MP Leah Gazan, Winnipeg Centre

MP Paul Manly, Nanaimo-Ladysmith

MP Randall Garrison, Esquimalt–Saanich–Sooke

MP Elizabeth May, Saanich—Gulf Islands

MP Jody Wilson Raybould, Vancouver Granville

MP Mumilaaq Qaqqaq, Nunavut

MP Niki Ashton, Churchill—Keewatinook Aski

MP Jagmeet Singh, Burnaby South

MP Erin O'Toole, Durham

MP Andrew Scheer, Regina—Qu'Appelle

MP Jack Harris, St. John's East

MP Chris D'Entremont

MP Marilyn Gladu, Sarnia-Lambton

MP Andréanne Larouche, Shefford

MP Lindsay Mathysen, London-Fanshawe

MP Jag Sahota, Calgary Skyview

MP Nelly Shin, Port Moody—Coquitlam

MP Alice Wong, Richmond Centre

MP Jamie Schmale, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock

MP Sylvie Bérubé, Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou

MP Rachel Blaney, North Island-Powell River

MP Eric Melillo, Kenora

MP Arnold Viersen, Peace River-Westlock

MP Gary Vidal, Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River

MP Rob Moore, Fundy Royal

MP Rhéal Éloi Fortin, Rivière-du-Nord

MP Micheal Cooper, St. Albert-Edmonton

MP Lynne D. Findlay, South Surrey-White Rock

MP Michelle Rempel Garner, Calgary Nose Hill

MP Chris Lewis, Essex

MP Luc Theriault, Montcalm

MP John Barlow, Foothills

MP Don Davies, Vancouver Kingsway

MP Larry Maguire, Brandon-Souris

MP Pat Kelly, Calgary Rocky Ridge

MP Gabriel Ste-Marie, Joliette

MP Peter Julian, New Westminster-Burnaby

MP Tamara Jansen, Cloverdale-Langley City

MP Ed Fast, Abbotsford

MP Ted Falk, Provencher

MPP Kevin Yarde, Brampton North

MPP Bhutla Karpoche, Parkdale-High Park

MPP Gurratan Singh, Brampton East

MPP Sara Singh, Brampton Centre

MPP Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Brampton South

MPP Amarjot Sandhu, Brampton West

Sol Mamakwa, Kiiwetinoong

Mike Schreiner, Guelph