



2019-2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

A Year of Accomplishments



CANADIAN CENTER
FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT

CENTRE CANADIEN
POUR L'AUTONOMISATION
DES FEMMES

| www.ccfwe.org |

WORDS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

MESERET HAILEYSUS

Chairman



2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Your support provided individuals experiencing abuse the opportunity to look forward to a better future.





WHO WE ARE

The Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) is a national organization, based in Ottawa, Canada dedicated to empowering domestic violence survivors through advocacy, mentorship, and economic empowerment.

VISION

We envision a world where domestic violence survivors can access and receive the resources they require to develop and achieve economic empowerment, and so improve their general well-being.

ABOUT THE COVER

The flowing glass in the beautiful Castle Downs Park Pavilion in Edmonton is a powerful reminder of our cause. It signifies peace, courage, survival, honor, and dedication to ending violence.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Leah Nord
- Carol Steuri
- Tong Zhoa Ausani
- Autumn Rock
- Kristin Douglas
- Sherry Jarret
- Pasioka Mario
- Roza Abdulahi
- Niha Shahzad
- Sally Yacob
- Sandra Kubert



HERE IS WHY WE ACT...

"I learned I can do so much with myself because I received services, especially learning how to protect my assets as a victim of domestic violence"-Survivor

WHAT DID WE ACHIEVE IN 2019/2020?

WOMEN WE REACHED

10,000

40

SURVIVORS DIRECTLY HELPED

51

NO OF INSTITUTION REACHED

53

Raising awareness of Economic Abuse

CCFWE leads the way in raising awareness and providing information on Economic Abuse to women experiencing abuse, their families and friends, their communities, and wider society. Our National Awareness campaigns and communications activities functioned as vital tools to highlight the prevalence, nature, and impact of Economic Abuse. The Economic Justice project testimony project encourages and facilitates survivors of domestic violence to tell their stories in a safe way to create better awareness leading to change for women in similar situations.



11,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS RECEIVED EDUCATIONAL EMAILS DURING NATIONAL AWARENESS MONTH MONTH.

95% OF PARTICIPANTS SAID THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF SAFETY PLANNING INCREASED.

96% PARTICIPANTS SAID OUR PROGRAM HAS HELPED THEM TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES ABOUT THEIR SITUATION.

96% PARTICIPANTS SAID THEY ARE BETTER ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THEY HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE POSITIVE CHOICES AND MAKE POSITIVE CHANGES IN THEIR LIVES.

FIRST NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON ECONOMIC ABUSE -

The Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) partnered with Buildupwomen Series on "Let us Talk about Economic Abuse," the conversation about Economic Abuse, hardships, resilience, and the next steps towards Action for Change.

Participants were drawn from various organizations such as;

- Niha Shahzad - Board of Directors, Economic Justice Research Lead at Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE)
- Lieran Docherty - Manager of Programs, Woman Abuse Council of Toronto (WomanACT), Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) National Taskforce Team
- Paola Jani-Morgan - Manager, Equity Promotion Programs at METRAC - Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) National Task Force Team
- Valentina Cardona -Counsellor at Interval House Ottawa
- Erin Whitmore -Executive Director at Ending Violence Association of Canada



FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING: TAKING ACTION TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC ABUSE :

On Economic Abuse Awareness Day, the Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) conducted a panel discussion about Economic Abuse - a common element of domestic abuse that is not part of the current conversation in Canada. As November was National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and National Financial Literacy Month, the panel shed light on the current global climate of financial and economic injustice and highlighted ways that the Canadian government and civil society can take active steps to assist survivors of economic abuse to help them thrive again.

Dr. Nicola Sharp-Jeffs, founder and CEO of Surviving Economic Abuse together with five other representatives from the government, survivors, and civil society organizations shared their experiences and expertise in the ecosystem. The discussion was framed along with three key themes:

1. Understanding the urgency of the issue- Research and Recognition, Lived Experiences
2. Recognition and Action - What can be done now by the various players, who are the big players (i.e. academics, activists, CCFWE, politicians)
3. Imagining a better future - Thinking of a world without Economic Abuse, where women would not be victimized through the various dimensions of Economic Abuse, while also questioning the cost of Economic Abuse to GDP, to social capital, and to well-being if we don't fix the problem. Finally, we also raised questions on what is happening elsewhere and what we can apply to Canada.



2. POLICY INFLUENCING

CCFWE PROVIDES INFORMED RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING FINANCIAL LITERACY RESPONSES, SYSTEMS, AND PROTECTIONS FOR WOMEN EXPERIENCING ABUSE AND WE BRING THE CONCERNS OF WOMEN EXPERIENCING ABUSE TO A NUMBER OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL FORUMS. WE MAKE SUBMISSIONS TO OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS TO DISCUSS A RANGE OF ISSUES AND COLLABORATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO BRING ABOUT SOCIAL CHANGE.

ESTABLISHMENT OF OF NATIONAL TASK FORCE

CCFWE's task force works together with policymakers at all levels of government and with financial institutions to create meaningful changes through advocacy, research, and policy to better support the women who are rebuilding their lives after escaping abusive domestic relationships. CCFWE has brought together a diverse team to identify the barriers that survivors of economic abuse face, build awareness around these issues, and create meaningful policy changes in Canadian financial institutions and governments.

Members of the group include family violence services, community legal services, and financial counseling services. Collectively, task force members have broad experience working with victims of family violence, industry, and government. There are currently 28 members in the National Working Group from Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories. Members are composed of experts from a variety of fields including Gender-Based Violence. The goal is to provide input, expertise, and advice towards identifying how Economic Abuse can be better addressed through policy and legislation.

The task force is meeting regularly every last Friday of the month and is currently tasked in two separate teams (financial group/policy group) to assess the short- and long-term priorities for 2021.

HOUSE OF COMMONS SPEECH

I recently met with Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment; a voluntary (Volunteer) organization focused on issues of Economic Abuse against women in domestic relationships. Many people understand the impact of physical violence, verbal and psychological abuse, it is less often discussed about Economic Abuse. About 95% of women that experience domestic abuse, also experience Economic Abuse. it can also occur on its own. I want to thank the Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment for the hard work and raising awareness about this important issue."

Anita Vandenberg, Member of Parliament for Ottawa West - Nepean, Canada,

On October 22nd, 2020, Anita Vandenberg, Member of Parliament for Ottawa West - Nepean, Canada, addressed Economic Abuse in a speech in the House of Commons. "Many people understand the impact of physical violence, verbal and psychological abuse, it is less often discussed about economic abuse," she noted and added, "About 95% of women who experience domestic abuse, also experience economic abuse. It can also occur on its own". Following her speech, Ms. Vandenberg thanked Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) for its work "on raising awareness about this important issue."



Pledge to fight Economic Abuse

As part of our 2020 Help Us Rise campaign, CCFWE asked supporters to sign a pledge in order to spread awareness and educate citizens, communities and organizations. Signatories commit to becoming an advocate within their social circle and the local community to advance gender equality by working to reduce and eliminate incidents of Economic Abuse affecting Canadian women. Through CCFWE's efforts, more than 51 organizations have signed the pledge.



National Financial Literacy Consultation:



CCFWE participated in a round table conversation surrounding the renewal of National Strategy Financial Literacy letstalkfinancialliteracy.ca, to ensure the strategy meets and reflects the needs of Canadian Women in the current environment to help build financial literacy and financial resilience.

CCFWE has and continues to petition provincial and municipal governments for a proclamation for Economic Justice Awareness Day in November as part of the national domestic violence awareness month and national literacy month. The graphic below indicates which jurisdiction has currently approved the proclamation or has yet to issue a final decision. CCFWE will continue to petition governments across Canada.

PROCLAMATION

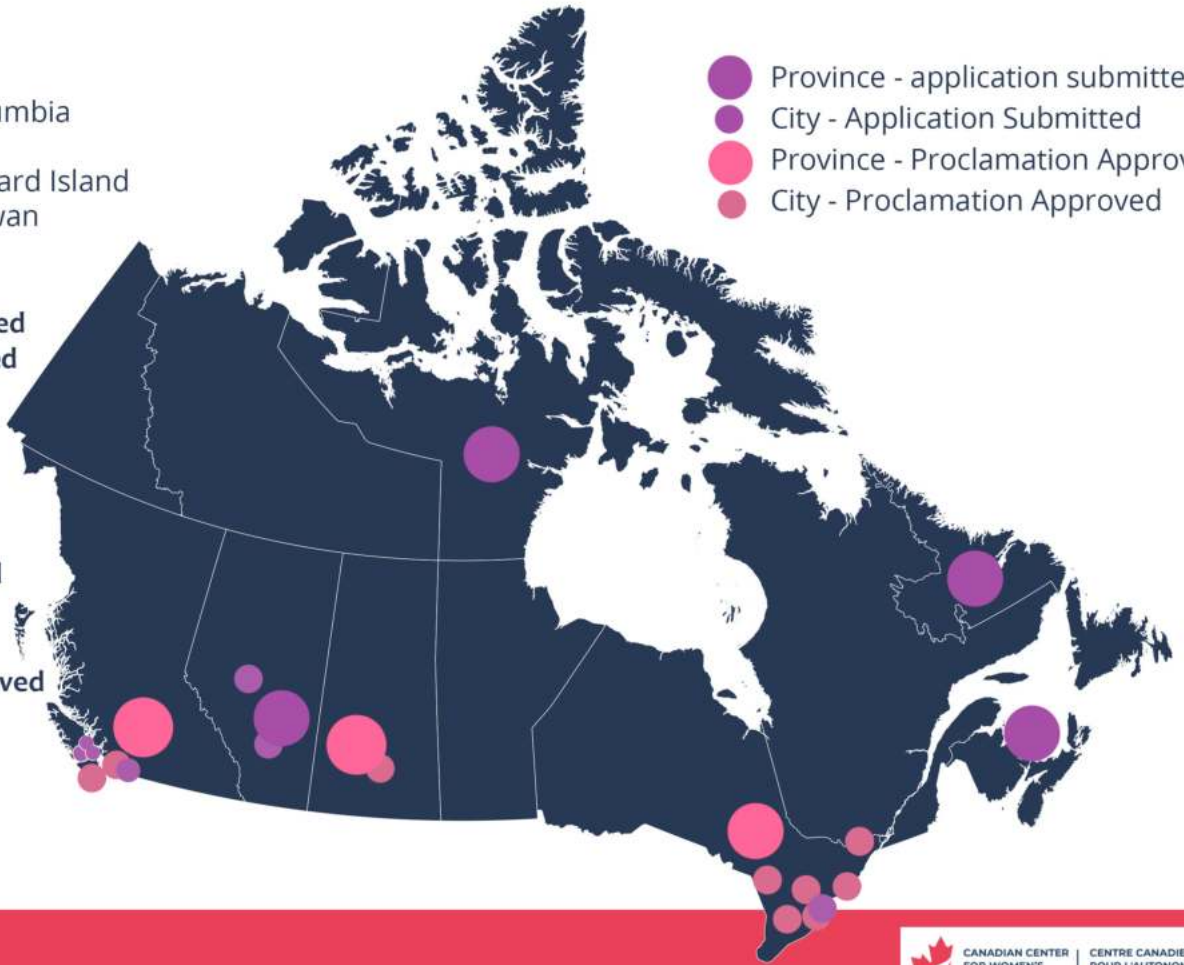
NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS OF ECONOMIC ABUSE NOVEMBER 26, 2020

Application for the proclamations to Declare on November 26 Day of Awareness for Survivors of Financial Abuse and Economic Injustice

Province Of Alberta
Province Of British Columbia
Province Of Ontario
Province Of Prince Edward Island
Province Of Saskatchewan
Nunavut

Burlington, ON - Approved
Brampton, ON - Approved
Calgary, Alberta
Comax, BC
Courney, BC
Cumberland, BC
Edmonton, Alberta
Kingston, ON - Approved
London, ON - Approved
Ottawa, ON - Approved
Parry Sound, ON - Approved
Regina, SK - Approved
Saskatoon, SK
Surrey, BC - Approved
Toronto, ON
Vancouver, BC
Victoria, BC - Approved

- Province - application submitted
- City - Application Submitted
- Province - Proclamation Approved
- City - Proclamation Approved



RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

5. ECONOMIC ABUSE SURVIVORS SUPPORT

- Two literature reviews were conducted both for the Academic and Policy Paper of the Research Study in the National Capital Region: Access to Economic Resources for Economic Abuse Survivors During COVID-19 (one was done in 2020, and one in 2021 to review literature published during COVID-19).
- This Research Study funded by the City of Ottawa, on the Ottawa, Gatineau, Hull region will be published in September 2021. It had 160 participants for the quantitative study, and 8 for the qualitative portion. This research was needed to fill an important policy gap on domestic abuse victims, as economic abuse has never been formally studied in Canada. There has been one study in Toronto on Financial Abuse by WomanACT, however, the scope of that study was narrower than ours.
- We will also build on this literature review to conduct the National Survey on Economic Abuse During COVID-19 across Canada. This project is funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE). This will also fill an important gap for policymakers and service providers, as it will be the first study on economic abuse to be conducted on a national level. This work will inform other CCFWE projects, such as the Provincial map to identify how well provinces respond to domestic violence and the Economic Abuse Screening Tool for financial institutions and legal services.
- This literature review was also used to inform other CCFWE presentations for our meetings with MPs and Ministers; webinars (such as the BuildUpWomen Series, and CCFWE's Panel on Self-Care During COVID-19); and policy documents such as the National Taskforce's Economic Abuse Policy Position Statement (to be published in September 2021).
- Additionally, this literature review was used to provide crucial information to the first federal National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

6. CONSULTATION WITH 360 EXPERT WOMEN WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE (SURVIVORS OF ECONOMIC ABUSE ROUNDTABLE CONSULTATION)

CCFWE conducted a round table consultation with 25 survivors who participated within a focus group. The aim of this consultation was to seek feedback on the initial findings and draft recommendations with women who had lived experience of IPV and/or Economic Abuse.

The forum invited participants to consider how financial capability could function as a tool for preventing and addressing Economic Abuse. Our participants experienced a wide range of challenges stemming from being a survivor of domestic violence and Economic Abuse.

CCFWE explored the program's success, along with the impact of such a program on survivors' lives through a number of outcome variables. The round table conversation occurred three times over the course of a year. The consultation with survivors covered the following topic areas using standardized and modified scales:

1. Economic, psychological, and physical abuse experiences
2. Accessing resources to Economic/financial literacy
3. Economic empowerment using a revised version of the Family Empowerment Scale (Koren, DeChillo, & Friesen, 1992)
4. Economic self-sufficiency using the Women's Employment Network Economic Self-Sufficiency Survey (Gowdy & Pearlmutter, 1993)

FINDINGS FROM THE CONSULTATION

The participants of the consultation have made the following recommendations for Government intervention over the course of our group sessions:

- Lack of Awareness of Economic abuse- Women were unaware of how badly their credit score had been impacted until they had left the abusive relationship. Economic empowerment is critical to recovery.
- Lack of private sector support: A large disconnect remains between bank services and survivors. Women reported being unable to receive help for unauthorized transfers of money, closing joint accounts, and having access to empathetic help or special services for people in their situations. As of now, there are no credit and loan services available for survivors of economic abuse who lack access to income, who have difficulty finding employment or accessing education, and have debts that they were not responsible for.
- Employment - Securing quality, ongoing employment, and returning to the workforce after an abusive relationship with children is challenging. There is a lack of access to affordable education.
-
- Mental health: Culturally appropriate mental health care has been inaccessible for racialized women well before the coronavirus pandemic. Lack of mental health services makes it difficult for survivors of domestic violence. The combination of racialized stigma and taboos surrounding DV continues to make it difficult for survivors to find culturally sensitive mental health supports.
-
- Food insecurity: Food banks were not accessible for BIPOC women who have special diets (i.e. diabetic, gluten and lactose-free). While some food resources have become more accessible, there are still many barriers to food security for our clients including Anti Racism, ongoing job loss, long lines, pre-selected options, and limited service hours for food banks making access difficult for clients with limited mobility and dietary issues.
- Post-separation abuse: Several survivors shared that they experience ongoing domestic and economic abuse after they leave abusive relationships.
- Lack of child care: There is an ongoing trend surrounding a lack of child care and support for survivors in the recovery process.
- Racism, stigma, and discrimination: Many survivors reported frustrations on being treated differently based on race in financial institutions and social services; particularly for things like cashing cheques.
- Lack of financial support for special needs survivors: Many survivors find it difficult to obtain eligibility for income assistance with Disability Support Programs.
- Lack of Justice system: Several survivors reported that there is a lack of support within the Canadian justice system to offer them accommodations and services unique to their situation (i.e. Economic Abuse).
- Lack of affordable housing: Accessing housing without emergency funding has proven difficult for survivors trying to flee a violent situation.

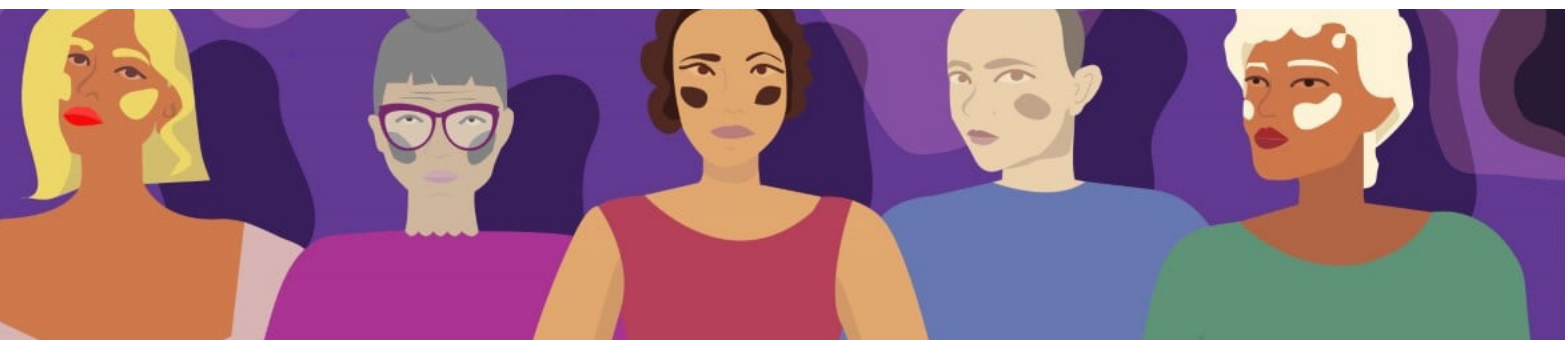
7. WEBINARS FOR AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN, BLACK COMMUNITY DURING THE LOCKDOWN

ACB Women Support Group - The “ACB” (African, Caribbean, Black) women support group was led by and for racialized women. Offering culturally-sensitive supports with topics ranging from anger management to self-care, CCFWE create a safe and supportive environment for racialized survivors to find empowerment to actively resist the silence and taboos surrounding domestic violence within the ACB community. We hosted a total of 14 webinar sessions, and 851 people participated. The following organizers contributed to the overall success of this program: Canadian Center for Women’s Empowerment in collaboration with Fabiola’s Addiction/Mental Health Awareness and Support Foundation, Fédération Femm Enfants Avenir Monde, SMJ Magazine & Shelland House of Films.



Members of National Taskforce

- Taskforce Participating organizations
- Status of Women Council of the NWT
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (BC)
- Women Abuse Council Of Toronto
- Trustmode
- Ministry of the Attorney General
- Court Support Services
- Calgary Legal Guidance
- Engage the Fox HuffPost
- Alterna savings | Alterna Bank
- Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- The Winnipeg Foundation
- Harmony House
- Osgoode Hall Law School | Human Rights Legal Support Centre
- Regional District of Central Okanagan
- St. John's Status of Women Council
- METRAC
- PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- The University of Windsor, Department of Political Science
- The Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity
- Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Naomi Sayers Legal Practice
- United Church of Canada
- Prosper Canada
- MacKintosh Canada Consulting
- Canadian Observatory on Homelessness
- Canada Project Recovery



FUTURE ^{OF} GOOD

**CCFWE'S ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROJECT
RECOGNIZED AS TOP 100 RECOVERY PROJECT**

We're excited to celebrate this milestone with you! A special thanks to our contributors who have strengthened the CCFWE Economic Justice Project. CCFWE works collaboratively with organizations and individuals to develop a comprehensive approach that enables domestic violence survivors to recover from economic abuse. We look forward to working with you. Check out the other phenomenal projects being celebrated by Future of Good [here](#).

STAY UP- TO-DATE

of information deemed
relevant to stakeholders
may be included

VOLUNTEER

We have LOTS of
opportunities for
you to have an
impact at Harbor
House. Check
out our volunteer
listings at

In 2019, thousands of community champions chose to support our mission. Businesses, foundations, individuals, schools, faith communities, etc. have all allowed us to build hope in the lives of domestic abuse survivors in our community. Once again, we say thank you. We look to continue to shine our light even brighter for survivors in our community and beyond!

AKNOWLEDGMENT



We thank you for your
continued support in
our programs.

HELP US RISE SUPPORTORS



REVELSTOKE
**Women's Shelter
Society**



PEAK RESILIENCE



BIG HILL HAVEN
A SAFE TOMORROW STARTS TODAY.



SHELLAND
HOUSE of FILMS

**SURVIVING
ECONOMIC
ABUSE**



WTC

Women That Give



Rock Life
Recovery and Success Strategies



COWAN & COMPANY
COMMUNICATIONS



myottawa.city

Empowering Ottawa, Positively

CAUSEWAY **ACMP**



**#Buildup
women**

SERIES



CONSULTING CORP



Let's digify your busines



Trustmode
MARKETING



FAMHAS
Foundation



ZAHARA'S DREAM
BUILDING POSITIVE CHANGE



RPA



SJ
MAGAZINE



PwrSwitch

THANK YOU MEDIA

TORONTO STAR



NATIONAL POST

Reputation Poll

TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY

healthy
debate

unbiased facts. informed opinions.



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