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DES FEMMES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ECONOMIC JUSTICE ADVOCATES URGE THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT
ECONOMIC EQUITY POLICIES TO FIGHT ECONOMIC ABUSE**

Provincial-Territorial Legislative Economic Abuse Scorecard will be announced to mark Gender Equality Week.

OTTAWA, Tuesday, September 19, 2023,

The Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) is proud to announce the upcoming release of the Provincial-Territorial Legislative Scorecard and the Launch of the State of Economic Abuse in Canada Report, coinciding with Gender Equality Week, as part of its ongoing commitment to advancing gender equality and combating Economic Abuse.

The Provincial-Territorial Legislative Scorecard is a groundbreaking initiative aimed at assessing and evaluating the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of existing laws and policies within specific provinces in addressing financial abuse. This scorecard plays a pivotal role in raising awareness, facilitating legal reforms, and contributing to the broader mission of preventing and addressing financial abuse to protect and support victims and survivors.

Meseret Haileyesus, founder and CEO of the Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment, emphasizes the significance of this scorecard: *"By scoring and rating provincial laws, the scorecard enables policymakers and advocates to gauge the effectiveness of current measures in addressing economic abuse. It will highlight successful initiatives and areas needing strengthening, ultimately leading to improved support and protection for victims of financial abuse. Additionally, the report will draw the attention of policymakers and economic justice advocates to the eye-opening findings and the urgency of addressing Economic Abuse in Canada. Stronger legal protections can empower victims to seek help and access resources to escape abusive situations."*

Register [here](#) to attend the event.



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NEW REPORT URGES CANADIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO FIGHT ECONOMIC ABUSE

State of Economic Abuse in Canada Report published on October 18, 2023

OTTAWA, Tuesday, September 19, 2023,

CCFWE is also thrilled to announce the launch of the inaugural **State of Economic Abuse in Canada report**, scheduled for October 18, 2023. This comprehensive report represents a milestone in the ongoing journey to combat Economic Abuse, offering a detailed overview of the global context of Economic Abuse with a particular focus on Canada. It is the result of collective community input, outlining the progress made and underscoring the need for sustained momentum to achieve positive change.

Economic abuse is a seldom-talked-about yet prevalent issue faced by survivors of domestic violence. It limits women's choices and ability to access safety. Earlier this year, the CCFWE led consultations with violence against women survivors and key organizations across Canada. A key finding from these sessions was that financial institutions unwittingly contribute to prolonged economic abuse as they do not have the necessary infrastructure, policies, or staff training to help victims.

Meseret Haileyesus further elaborates, *"This report provides an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced by survivors and service providers within Canada. It outlines action items to end economic abuse in the context of family violence, serving as a foundation for future advocacy work and action points to be undertaken by CCFWE and beyond. We are committed to developing a meaningful policy response to eradicate economic abuse."*

As a result, the CCFWE and its National Task Force for Women's Economic Justice developed policy recommendations addressing economic abuse in the context of family violence. Among them are the following recommendations explicitly targeted at the financial sector:

1. Training staff to detect and respond to economic abuse in collaboration with CCFWE and grassroots organizations.
2. Developing a Financial Abuse Code of Practice to protect survivors.

3. Keeping contact and banking information of survivors confidential and secure.
4. Offering affordable chequing and savings accounts and other financial products.
5. Increasing survivors' access to financial literacy education, including credit counseling and economic empowerment services.

In 2022, CCFWE published a comprehensive list of policy recommendations for financial institutions. The report will be accessible to the editor as per request.

What is Economic Abuse?

Economic abuse, a pervasive form of domestic violence, occurs when a partner interferes with employment, controls access to finances, or generates financial costs without consent. Women from marginalized groups, including newcomers, refugees, racialized, and Indigenous women, are particularly vulnerable to economic abuse due to systemic factors. It has profound and long-lasting effects on victims, impeding their ability to secure stable and safe accommodations, achieve economic security, and live free from violence.

About CCFWE:

The Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) is Canada's sole national organization dedicated to combating Domestic Economic Abuse within the context of Family Violence. Through education, economic empowerment, mentorship, and system change, CCFWE collaborates with organizations, financial advocates, and survivors to address economic and financial abuse and empower survivors to regain control of their finances and rebuild their lives. CCFWE envisions a world where domestic violence survivors can access financial education and resources for their safety and financial independence, guided by lived experience and evidence-based practice.

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