



# Federal Election 2025: CCFWE Wants Survivor Financial Independence Prioritized

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OTTAWA, ON** – March 31, 2025 – As Canada approaches the federal election, the Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) calls for urgent action to prioritize investments in women's economic safety and security is critical for empowering survivors of gender-based violence and economic abuse on their pathway to recovery and independence.

CCFWE expresses deep concern over Prime Minister Carney's dissolution of the dedicated Ministry for Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) and its Minister. Due to this restructuring, the federal government risks undermining its efforts to combat gender-based violence.

Economic Abuse is a very prevalent but notoriously underestimated form of domestic violence that often has lasting adverse financial consequences for victim-survivors. It prevents victim-survivors from achieving financial independence. Economic empowerment provides the tools and resources needed to break free from cycles of violence.

When survivors gain economic independence, they become active participants in the workforce, contribute to tax revenue, reduce reliance on social services, and often become entrepreneurs who create jobs and drive innovation. This ripple effect strengthens local communities and enhances Canada's economic competitiveness on the global stage.

CCFWE's research findings paint a troubling picture of economic abuse in Canada:

- 92% of survivors have experienced their abusive partner withholding financial information
- 93% report abusive partners making important financial decisions without their input
- 84% have had debt built up under their name by their abusers

Economic Abuse extends beyond immediate financial hardship, leading to housing insecurity, limited educational and employment opportunities, and deteriorating mental and physical health.

CCFWE calls on all political parties to commit to the following priorities:

1. **Financial Empowerment Programs:** Establish accessible financial inclusion initiatives specifically designed for survivors to rebuild financial knowledge and confidence
2. **Career Development Support:** Create dedicated employment pathways, skills training, and entrepreneurship programs to foster economic independence



3. **Financial System Reforms:** Develop protocols within financial institutions to identify abuse and provide recovery resources, including credit repair options for survivors with coerced debt
4. **Housing Security:** Create accessible, affordable housing options paired with economic empowerment programming
5. **Survivor-Centered Policies:** Continue and deepen the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence by including Economic Abuse and economic empowerment in this work.

## About the Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment

The Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) is Canada's only national non-profit organization dedicated to addressing Economic Abuse and injustice through education, research, economic empowerment, and policy change.

CCFWE works collaboratively with organizations and individuals to develop a comprehensive approach that enables domestic violence survivors to recover from Economic Abuse. It also addresses critical policy gaps preventing survivors from recovering and becoming economically secure and independent.

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