



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Study by the Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment Shows 67% of Financial Institution Staff Would Not be Able to Recognize Signs of Abuse

The Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment is committed to advancing research that sheds light on Economic Abuse and its impact on survivors in Canada. Thanks to funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE), CCFWE has launched a national study that explores the prevalence of Economic Abuse in the country and assesses the economic safety needs of survivors.

The study's findings are both concerning and eye-opening. For instance, over 60% of social service providers don't have the requisite training to assist clients experiencing Economic Abuse, and more than two-thirds of financial sector staff wouldn't be able to recognize the signs of Economic Abuse if a client presented them.

What's more, financial institutions ranked as the least helpful service providers in terms of supporting survivors, while counselors, doctors, and mental health support received the greatest endorsement for being 'helpful' or 'very helpful.' Most alarmingly, a staggering 79% of social service providers stated that clients often remain in abusive relationships because of a lack of accessible housing in the area.

The study also highlighted that survivors face multiple challenges, including limited financial means and their partner's control over their finances, which make it difficult for them to escape abusive relationships. CCFWE is dedicated to using this research to inform policies and practices that support survivors and ensure they receive the assistance they need to break free from abusive relationships.

CCFWE's Director of Research, **Niha Shazad**, states "We're seeing now more than ever, with the cost of living rising for all families, that Economic Abuse is hitting women on all fronts: housing, food, childcare, healthcare, transit etc. We need more wraparound social services that help victims get back on their feet, after their abuser has destroyed any chances of them creating a sound economic future."

CCFWE recently hosted its first-ever Domestic Economic Abuse and Injustice Summit on November 15, where attendees from diverse professional backgrounds came together for an in-depth exchange of information on all aspects of Economic Abuse, including intervention, research, barriers, and lived-experiences. The summit was a unique forum that highlighted the urgent need for more attention to be given to this critical issue.

The summit also unveiled further findings from CCFWE's groundbreaking national study on Economic Abuse in Canada. Among the key recommendations were calls for wider cross-government funding to assist survivors with the costs of leaving perpetrators and accessing safe accommodations.

The study also emphasized the need for more research to be conducted on this understudied phenomenon and its impact on service providers and victims/survivors. The findings presented at the summit were both compelling and thought-provoking, underscoring the need for urgent action to address Economic Abuse and its impact on vulnerable populations.

The recommendations put forward in the study are a critical step towards building a more just and equitable society, and CCFWE remains committed to advancing research that helps empower women and reduce the prevalence of Economic Abuse in Canada.

To read the full research report, please visit our [website](#).

About Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment

The Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to providing economic justice and empowerment to survivors of Economic Abuse. Economic Abuse is a form of violence that can take the form of preventing a person from having access to their finances, using money and resources to control them, or using intimidation or threats to limit their economic freedom. CCFWE works to create a safe, empowering and equitable environment for survivors of economic abuse to break free from their situations.

Our mission is to provide advocacy, education, and access to resources to empower survivors of economic abuse. Through our advocacy and education programs, we act as an advocate for survivors of economic abuse and help to raise awareness about the issue of economic abuse. We also provide educational resources to help build the capacity of survivors to understand their rights and to take action.

At CCFWE, we believe that economic justice is a fundamental right for all people and that economic abuse should never be tolerated. We work to create a world where economic abuse is unacceptable and survivors have the resources and support to be economically empowered. Through our work, we strive to create a society where survivors of economic abuse are able to live free from violence and fear.

For more information, press only:

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