



CANADIAN CENTER
FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT

CENTRE CANADIEN
POUR L'AUTONOMISATION
DES FEMMES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA Ontario, CA

Wed June 7th, 2023

**CANADIAN CENTER FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (CCFWE) WAS NAMED
THE WINNER OF THE CWE GALA 2023 AWARD IN THE CATEGORY OF
COMMUNITY - WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

The Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) is pleased to announce that we have been named by Google Selection Committee and CWE Industry Award as the winners of the #CWEgala2023 award in the Community - Women's Health and Wellbeing category.

CCFWE was selected as an official winner from over 100 nominations. The Google selection committee judges were blown away by CCFWE's dedication to championing women and incorporating diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in our work.

CCFWE is being recognized for the impactful programs enabling women in business to thrive by addressing Economic Abuse and injustice through advocacy, education, research, economic empowerment, and policy change.

CCFWE's work sets an example for other industry leaders to take action while creating the space for what is possible in the industry when we put diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging into the fabric of CCFWE's values and programs.

The announcement was made on May 30th, 2023, at the CWE Gala 2023 Award Ceremony. The gala is a prestigious event experience that recognizes and honors Canada's leading companies' influential programs, campaigns, and CSR initiatives that have paved the way for a more equal and diverse ecosystem for women in business. The CWE industry event connects successful women in business, agencies,

influencers, aspiring entrepreneurs, creators, and media in one place to take groundbreaking action to advance women forward.

The award honored and applauded leaders, entrepreneurs, and business professionals from a range of organizations like Green Shield, Interac, Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), The DMZ, Centre for Women in Business, PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise, Women Get on Board, Pinterest, EllisDon, WBE Canada and TD Bank.

CCFWE addresses financial security, long-term safety, and wealth for survivors of Domestic Economic Abuse while focusing on how economic and financial abuse affects women across different socio-economic backgrounds, ages, and ethnicities. CCFWE provides a much-needed support system for Canadian women empowering survivors of gender-based violence through advocacy, education, public policy change, and more, including pushing Canadian banks to eliminate banking practices that target women with excessive burdens, such as debt and bad credit scores.

CCFWE is working with various stakeholders and policymakers to end Economic injustice by bringing together women's community organizations, financial institutions such as banks, utilities, and essential service providers, telecommunications companies, industry regulators and ombudsman services, local and national government, the family justice system, consumer lawyers, and researchers and academics.

Meseret Haileyesus was inspired to found the CCFWE after observing how women's service organizations, shelters, and financial institutions lacked the resources to identify or help survivors recover from Domestic Economic Abuse and injustice. "Meseret believes that Economic Abuse is a systemic problem in our society which we are severely lacking the infrastructure to address," she said.

Through its community awareness and education program, policy influencing and research, and evidence generation, CCFWE today works to fill the above gap and give social service providers, financial institutions, policymakers, and domestic abuse survivors the tools to work toward financially independent futures and mental wellness.

When a woman wants to leave an abusive relationship, her financial situation is a critical factor in her ability to do so. Perpetrators know this, which may partly explain

why 95 percent of women who experience intimate partner violence also experience Economic Abuse.

Economic Abuse—which occurs when a domestic partner interferes with a partner’s access to finances, employment, or social benefits, such as fraudulently racking up credit card debt in their partner’s name or preventing their partner from going to work, prohibiting the victim from using credit cards, writing checks, and accessing marital accounts, prevent the victim’s career advancement and sabotaging employment by making the other spouse miss work, controlling the use of property, such as a mobile phone or car, refusing to contribute to costs and child support, making the victim sign legal papers without knowing what they are and dragging out divorce proceedings to cripple victim financially all has a devastating effect on victims and survivors of domestic partner violence. Yet, it’s rarely talked about in Canada.

CCFWE would like to thank the [CWE Industry gala](#) for the Women Wellbeing Impact Award. “With your support, we will empower more Canadians to identify and respond to Economic Abuse, whether the victim is you, your sister, your friend, your colleague, your client, or your constituent.”

CCFWE would like to Women and Gender Equality Canada, TD Bank Group, and Crime Prevention Ottawa for their generous support.

ABOUT CCFWE: [Canadian Center for Women’s Empowerment](#) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about Economic Abuse and working with policymakers, survivors, and financial institutions to help Domestic Abuse survivors heal, build resiliency and lead healthy, independent lives. Watch the CCFWE Women of Worth award video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRX7S6MCMN4>

Contact information:

Meseret Haileysus

Executive Director

mesi.haileyesus@ccfwe.org