

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Milestone for Survivors: Canada Moves to Address Economic Abuse

Ottawa, October 20, 2025 — At a press conference this morning, Minister François-Philippe Champagne announced a major turning point in the fight against economic abuse in Canada: the establishment of a **voluntary Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Economic Abuse**.

Overseen by the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC), the new code will be developed in collaboration with financial institutions and key stakeholders, including Canada's only national organization dedicated to ending Economic Abuse, the **Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE)**. The initiative aims to set clear expectations for how financial institutions can identify, prevent, and respond to economic abuse, strengthening protections for Canadians.

Just days after receiving the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case, **Meseret Haileyesus, Founder and Executive Director of CCFWE**, presented at today's [Government of Canada's announcement](#) of the Economic Abuse Code of Conduct, National Anti-Fraud Strategy and new Financial Crimes Agency, underscoring the urgent need for national action on economic abuse.

"In Canada, 96% of domestic violence survivors experience economic abuse—through coerced debt, identity theft, or destroyed credit—yet these crimes often go unseen," said Haileyesus. "Economic Abuse can have a devastating effect on women, directly impacting their mental health, physical safety, independence, financial well-being, and ability to leave an abuser. CCFWE welcomes this historic action by the Government of Canada and looks forward to continued partnership with policymakers to advance systemic solutions to economic abuse.."

Economic abuse is a form of family and gender-based violence involving the control, exploitation, or sabotage of a person's economic resources, assets, or opportunities to undermine their independence and security. For the past seven years, CCFWE has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of this widespread but often overlooked form of abuse.

Through groundbreaking research, public education, and knowledge mobilization, CCFWE advocates for systemic change to improve survivors' economic security and safety, both nationally and internationally. The organization also builds bridges between survivors and financial institutions, driving reforms to make financial services, telecommunications, and utilities agencies more equitable and accessible for victim-survivors.

Drawing on the United Kingdom's Financial Code of Practice model, CCFWE has long called for a similar minimum standard in Canada to protect victim-survivors of economic abuse and reduce risks of fraud and financial control by abusive partners.

CCFWE's research has shown that **financial institutions are often the first point of contact for victims disclosing economic abuse**. Stigma, shame, and fear of not being believed prevent many from coming forward to family members or friends. Financial institutions therefore play a vital role in early prevention and in supporting survivors on their path toward economic safety and recovery.

Minister Champagne's leadership reinforces that **economic safety is national safety** — and that every Canadian deserves a financial system built on fairness, integrity, and compassion.

About the Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE)

The Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) is Canada's only national non-profit organization dedicated to addressing economic abuse through education, research, economic empowerment, policy influencing, and systems change. CCFWE collaborates with organizations and individuals to develop survivor-centered approaches that enable recovery and long-term economic security.

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