



CANADIAN CENTER
FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT

CENTRE CANADIEN
POUR L'AUTONOMISATION
DES FEMMES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canadian Cities Mark National Economic Abuse Awareness Day as Canada Takes Historic Steps Toward Financial Safety for Survivors

Federal Leadership, New National Code of Conduct, and Ottawa's Proclamation Signal Major Progress in Ending Economic Abuse

Ottawa, Canada — The Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) is proud to mark National Economic Abuse Awareness Day, a day first launched in Canada in 2019 and now recognized across cities and provinces nationwide, as well as by partners in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and other international allies.

For the past five years, major cities and provinces across Canada have recognized the day by issuing proclamations. This year, momentum continues to grow nationwide in acknowledging economic abuse as a critical national issue.

This year represents a significant turning point. The Government of Canada has committed to creating the first-ever National Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Economic Abuse, marking a historic shift in how financial institutions identify, prevent, and respond to economic abuse. This commitment is reinforced by references to economic abuse in Budget 2025, signalling a deeper national understanding that financial safety is inseparable from personal safety.

Economic Abuse is one of the most hidden forms of violence. It includes financial control, coerced debt, and financial exploitation that limit a survivor's ability to leave an unsafe partner. Research conducted by CCFWE in Ottawa in 2021 shows the severity of the issue. 96% of women who experienced domestic abuse also experienced economic abuse. 90% reported that partners withheld money for food, clothing, and basic needs. 87% percent had money stolen. 91% percent had property or identification

taken. These findings highlight the urgent need for city-wide coordination across financial, housing, and community systems.

As the federal government moves forward on strengthening national protections, the Honourable Rechie Valdez, Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State for Small Business and Tourism, shared the following statement: “Economic abuse is a deeply harmful form of gender-based violence that too often goes unseen. Through Budget 2025, we’re taking concrete action by introducing a new voluntary Code of Conduct to help federally regulated banks better identify, prevent, and respond to economic abuse. When we equip financial institutions to recognize the signs and support those at risk, we help build a safer, fairer Canada, one where everyone can live free from violence.” Honourable Rechie Valdez, Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State for Small Business and Tourism.

Following the Minister’s remarks, CCFWE Founder and Executive Director Meseret Haileyesus emphasized the significance of this moment, “November 26 is a meaningful day for me because it represents a national shift toward economic safety and dignity. This year, the Government of Canada made an important commitment to strengthen financial protection and create a national Code of Conduct that will support countless women and families. What began as our work here in Canada is now reaching many countries, bringing global attention to the importance of economic security and fairness. Today reminds us that when we stand together, real change becomes possible.”

This year, Canada joined the International Coalition Against Economic Abuse as a co-founder and co-organized the first Global Economic Abuse Summit with 62 speakers across the world. These national commitments are contributing to global progress, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and international gender-equality frameworks, added Haileyesus.

CCFWE urges continued action across all levels of government, financial institutions, and community partners. Priorities include strengthening survivor-informed financial equality policies, enhancing institutional policies, implementing the National Action Plan (NAP), improving access to safe housing and employment, and investing public education and research.

CCFWE invites individuals and organizations across Canada to join this national movement by signing the Pledge to End Economic Abuse and by sharing educational tools, resources, and survivor-informed materials available at [Pledge to end Economic Abuse](#).

About the Canadian Center for Women’s Empowerment

The Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment is the only national organization in Canada dedicated to addressing economic abuse through policy influencing, research, education, Financial Empowerment and system change. The organization works with survivors, community agencies, financial institutions, and government partners to end economic abuse and build long-term economic safety for women across the country.

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