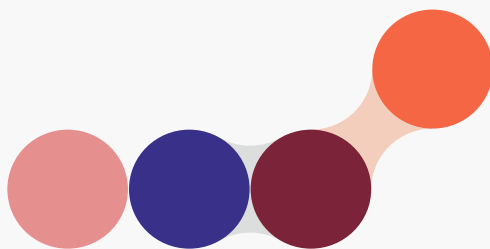


What It Takes: Establishing a gender-based violence accountability mechanism in Canada

- 1. Establishment**
 - 1.1 Prioritize the urgent establishment of the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Commissioner.
- 2. Roles and Powers**
 - 2.1 Vest the GBV Commissioner with a full range of powers proper to its federal role.
 - 2.2 Ensure that the Commissioner is independent.
- 3. Mandate**
 - 3.1 Use an internationally recognized, intersectional definition of GBV in the Commissioner's mandate, such as that used by the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
 - 3.2 Employ an expansive and innovative approach to accountability in the mandate that imagines affected communities as the aggregate source of expertise, nuanced data collection, best practices, and the ultimate beneficiaries of an accountable response to GBV.
 - 3.3 Ensure clear constitutional parameters guide the Commissioner's mandate, such as operating only within legal issues related to criminal, Indigenous, immigration, and refugee matters.
- 4. Selection**
 - 4.1 Select the Commissioner through an open call with specific criteria.
 - 4.2 Appoint the Commissioner for a minimum five-year term, renewable only once.
- 5. Structure**
 - 5.1 Ensure the GBV Commissioner is structurally accountable to the Canadian public and to affected communities.
 - 5.2 Appropriately staff the office of the commissioner to advance necessary collaboration, research, and evaluation capabilities.
 - 5.3 Structure the office to favour implementation and engagement, with a robust consultation budget and back-office integration.
- 6. Immediate Priorities**
 - 6.1 Prioritize the urgent establishment of the GBV Commissioner, even if this means falling short of maximum powers and maximum independence.
 - 6.2 Enable the quick set-up and launch of the GBV Commissioner through an initial focus on engagement, monitoring, collaboration, and NAPGBV familiarization as opposed to investigation.



What an independent GBV Commissioner could achieve



IMPROVED INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION

Policy leadership level engagement, awareness and collaboration with existing mechanisms



BETTER RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Ensuring more efficient and effective allocation of resources by identifying priority populations, outcome measurement, gaps, and redundancies in service provision



HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

Leadership level familiarity and technical proficiency in Canada's domestic and international human rights obligations with respect to GBV



STRUCTURALLY EMBEDDED ADVISORY FUNCTIONS

Driven by Black, Indigenous, racialized, disabled, rural/remote survivors, the GBV advocacy and support sector, and GBV expertise outside government




EMPOWERMENT OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Engagement with and leadership of affected communities, especially those with intersectional experiences of exclusion, ensuring that their voices and needs are central to policy-making



INCREASED TRANSPARENCY & TRUST

Through enhanced and innovative engagement strategies, monitoring, and reporting on the actions of relevant stakeholders increases transparency, thereby building public trust in "the system"



IMPROVED RECOMMENDATION IMPLEMENTATION

Through tracking, research, data, and engagement, recommendations for new policies or modifications to existing ones based on gathered data and evaluation outcomes help ensure that policies and recommendations are not only developed but also effectively implemented and adhered to



DATA COLLECTION & RESEARCH

In collaboration with the national statistical agency and through Tri-Agency/Capstone research agenda-setting collaboration and individual and institutional academic engagement, facilitating the collection of valuable data and research where gaps exist, which can inform policy and practice



AWARENESS RAISING & PREVENTION

With a view to affected communities' ownership of initiatives, engage the life cycle of violence perpetuated in families and communities, ensure a clear focus on prevention and changing attitudes, norms and behaviours through public awareness about the rights and needs of GBV survivors



ENHANCED MONITORING & OVERSIGHT

Providing ongoing oversight can lead to continuous improvement in strategies and interventions, particularly the use of federal funds intended to be dedicated to GBV initiatives in the provinces and territories, as evaluated in collaboration with affected communities

