

ENDING VIOLENCE

Association of Canada

Annual Report 2016/ 2017

A Year in Review: Message from the Board of Directors

Just over two years ago, a group of passionate and committed anti-violence leaders from across Canada met to form what we now know as The Ending Violence Association of Canada (EVA CAN). Although still in its formative years, EVA CAN has made significant strides towards fulfilling its vision of a coordinated, collaborative multi-sectorial approach to gendered based violence in Canada. Over the past year, we were instrumental in the development and implementation of a successful workplace policy and program to address and prevent violence against women in the Canadian Football League. We authored 14 briefing documents in support of the federal government's strategy to address gender-based violence. And of great significance, we continued to collaborate, share information and resources across all sectors in an effort to build strong national alliances to respond to and prevent gender-based violence in Canada.

Board of Directors 2016-2017

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Why EVA CAN?

Over the last 40 years there has been a great deal of organization and action in the area of violence against women in Canada that has culminated in a range of policy frameworks, programs, initiatives and coalitions involving numerous feminists, anti-violence advocates, survivors, and allies often supported by federal and provincial government ministries and departments.

There are many national organizations that have been involved over time and who have been doing excellent work, including for example, DisAbled Women's Network Canada (DAWN), Women's Legal Action Fund (LEAF), Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses and others.

This breadth of involvement and work is reflective of the complexity of, and intersections between the issues. At the same time, there are challenges to working across anti-violence sectors where those of us involved continue to experience barriers to access to information, expertise and support, and witness sectors still working in silos. There is a need for bringing together all organizations that have an interest in issues of violence against women, and for working more collaboratively across sectors.

The EVA CAN Vision

Formed in December 2014, the Ending Violence Association of Canada (EVA CAN) is a national non-profit organization whose main purpose is to educate and respond to gender-based violence at the national level.



For many decades, those responding to sexual assault, intimate partner violence and child abuse have been predominantly working in separate sectors; sexual assault centres, shelters and transition houses and system based or police based victim services. They have been in the difficult position of having to compete for a slice of the social policy agenda, for funding and for awareness of the issues they represent.

Gender-based violence (GBV)¹ is complex and requires an integrated, cross sector, intersectional analysis. Those who have started EVA CAN believe that the national conversation would be most effective if it included all of the sectors who address gender-based violence.

¹ GBV includes sexual assault, relationship violence/abuse, child abuse, criminal harassment and other similar crimes, all of which intersect and are inter-related.

EVA CAN formed in response to the need to foster a national shared analysis, to bring together all of the sectors involved in the array of anti-violence issues for national dialogue and movement forward, for collaboration across regions, provinces and territories to develop comprehensive and coordinated responses, for developing and sharing information and best practices, promoting safety of workers in the field, and creating a more effective gateways to services.

As a national organization, our work will create a new level of efficiency through building coordination and collaboration with and between the many systems that are key to responding to GBV. These systems include criminal and family justice, health and social service systems, educational institutions, as well as corporations and provincial or territorial organizations.



EVA CAN: What We Do

EVA CAN works with other national organizations, educational institutions, business, government, provincial and territorial community-based organizations to promote and sustain multi-disciplinary, cross-sectorial collaboration and information exchange at the national level. We aim to:

- 1) Advance education through training.**
- 2) Engage in research, resource development, and distribution.**
- 3) Develop and foster excellence in service standards for provincial or territorial organizations.**
- 4) Work with national organizations, educational institutions and other key organizations in related fields to ensure cross-sectorial collaboration and information exchange at the national level.**

EVA CAN: Highlights of 2016/17:

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE: NATIONAL WORKPLACE POLICY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Since its inception, EVA CAN has been working in partnership with the Canadian Football League (CFL) to develop and adopt a workplace health and safety policy related to domestic and sexual violence. Last year, EVA CAN and the CFL proudly launched the ground breaking policy that has a core objective of prevention of violence against women.

With consultation and support from EVA CAN, the CFL designed the policy to ensure that all CFL employees undergo mandatory education and orientation to the policy on an annual basis. The policy applies to all individuals who work for the CFL and its Member Clubs; including players, coaches, officials, executives and staff.

Training Program Development

Over the past year, in collaboration with representatives from CFL and anti-violence affiliates from across Canada, EVA CAN developed a two hour curriculum to be delivered to CFL staff and players. An outcomes evaluation framework survey was also designed and anti-violence affiliates from each of the team's jurisdictions were recruited and selected as facilitators. In addition, EVA CAN recruited and trained CFL players to act as a co-facilitators for each of the training sessions. As a final preparatory step, train-the-trainer orientation sessions were coordinated and delivered via audio or video-conferencing to prepare the facilitators for their respective roles in the training delivery.

Training Delivered

In-person training sessions to the CFL Head Office and its nine teams were delivered from May to November 2016. Two sessions were delivered at each training site: 1-hour presentations to Coaches and Players and 2.5-hour presentations to Club Staff. Overall, evaluations were very positive and as one participant commented: ***"I think that the CFL is on the right track. This conversation needs to continue. I was deeply affected by the seminar."***

The Policy at Work

Over the past year, EVA CAN has acted in an advisory and consultative role assisting the CFL to respond to incidences and reports of violence, to assist victims of violence and seek behavior change on the part of perpetrators. EVA CAN maintains a roster of anti-violence experts trained in risk assessment that are available immediately upon request to the teams in each of their jurisdictions.

EVA CAN: Highlights of 2016/17 (cont'd):

EVA CAN CONTRIBUTES 14 BRIEFING DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF CANADA'S STRATEGY TO ADDRESS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

In 2016, the Minister of Status of Women was mandated to work with experts and advocates to develop and implement a federal strategy against gender-based violence. The Minister reached out to academia, civil society and front-line service providers to hear their perspectives on key issues and activities that could help to inform the development of the federal strategy. As part of this process, roundtables were hosted across Canada and on line surveys were created to elicit input from advocates and survivors.



In consideration of the breadth and complexity of the issues and needs related to domestic and sexual violence, EVA CAN authored and submitted 14 briefing documents which identify the critical elements of an effective response to GBV. These elements can serve as the foundation for a national strategy and action to address gender-based violence.

The following *Briefing Documents* summarize these critical elements:

1. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Gender-Based Violence
2. Addressing Gaps in Services for Marginalized Women
3. Specialized Support for Women Who are Victims of Violence
4. Coordination and Information Sharing
5. Effective Referrals to Community-Based Victim Services
6. Addressing Sexual Assault
7. Barriers to Women's Participation in the Criminal Justice Process
8. Effective Enforcement of Protection Orders
9. Treatment for Assaultive Men
10. Establishment of a Domestic Violence Death Review Committee
11. Training on Gender-Based Violence
12. Prevention of Gender-Based Violence
13. Disaster Preparedness and Support
14. Anti-Violence Worker Safety

For more information or to request copies of the briefing documents EVA CAN submitted to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women in Canada, please contact Tracy Porteous at porteous@endingviolence.org or Debra Tomlinson dtomlinson@asas.ca.

EVA CAN: Highlights of 2016/17 (cont'd):

EVA CAN CONTINUES TO FOSTER CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION, RESOURCE AND INFORMATION SHARING

We know that gender-based violence (GBV) is complex and requires an integrated, cross sector, intersectional analysis. At EVA CAN, we believe that the national conversation is most effective when it includes all of the sectors who respond to GBV. That is why wherever possible, EVA CAN works together with the diverse range of multi-sectorial stakeholders involved in issues of GBV across Canada.

Winnipeg Regional Consultation

On August 31, 2016, four EVA CAN Board members attended a regional roundtable in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This roundtable brought over 20 stakeholders from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta together to discuss issues related to gender-based violence that are regionally specific. This roundtable is part of a broader engagement process to engage stakeholders across the country to inform the development of a federal strategy on gender-based violence.

Meeting with Federal Minister of Justice

In September 2016, EVA CAN Co-Chair Tracy Porteous met with the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould and her Chief of Staff to discuss the barriers that survivors of violence face when they access the criminal justice system and to recommend strategies to address these barriers. As a follow up to this meeting, EVA CAN forwarded a copy of the 14 Briefing Documents to Minister Wilson-Raybould which outline critical elements in support of the Federal Strategy to Address Gender Based Violence.

Meeting with Federal Provincial Status of Women

In January 2017, at the request of Status of Women Canada and Manitoba Status of Women, members of EVA CAN met by teleconference to follow up on discussions that took place in September on the topic of sexual violence at the annual meeting of Federal/Provincial/Territorial Status of Women Ministers in Edmonton. Topics discussed included policies and programs related to reporting options available to recent survivors of sexual assault. This information will be used to report back at the next meeting of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Status of Women Ministers scheduled to take place in Toronto in June 2017.