

ENDING VIOLENCE

Association of Canada

Annual Report 2017/ 2018

A Year in Review: Message from the Board of Directors

It's been three years since the Ending Violence Association of Canada (EVA CAN) began working towards our vision of a coordinated, collaborative multi-sectoral approach to gendered based violence (GBV) in Canada. EVA CAN was successful in continuing our partnership with the Canadian Football League sustaining their workplace policy and program to address and prevent violence against women. This year's partnership included the development of videos featuring men standing up and speaking out against GBV. These videos along with a full page game program ad were highlighted as part of CFL play offs as well as the Grey Cup. EVA CAN also provided valuable subject matter expertise to the development of social policy surrounding the criminal justice response to sexual violence. Over the past year, we have grown, welcoming two new Board members, Michelle Smith from York Region and Arlene Gaudreault from Quebec. Our recruitment efforts continue as we seek to build strong national alliances with representation across all social identities, sectors, provinces, territories, Indigenous lands and Metis communities responding to GBA in Canada.

Board of Directors 2017-2018

Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan
Women's Centre Connect, Nova Scotia
Women's Support Network of York Region
Halifax Regional Police Victims Services
Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres
Association Quebecoise Plaidoyer-Victimes
DisAbled Women's Network of Canada
Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services
Ending Violence Association of BC
Klinik Community Health, Winnipeg
ON Association of Interval & Transition Houses

Kerrie Isaac
Georgia Barnwell
Michelle Buczek-Smith
Verona Singer
Nicole Pietsch
Arlene Gaudreault
Bonnie Brayton
Deb Tomlinson
Tracy Porteous
Rosemarie Gjerek
Debbie Zweep

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 2017/18:

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE (CFL) AND EVA CAN: BREAKING THE SILENCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



This past year, extensive work continued related to EVA CAN'S partnership with the CFL. After having helped develop the CFL's National Policy on Violence Against Women and delivering the training to all players, coaches and staff of every CFL team across Canada for the last two years in a row, EVA CAN continues to act as a consultant to the CFL on critical issues as they arise.

Also in 2017, EVA CAN gave a national platform to the *Be More Than A Bystander* program, developed through a partnership between the Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) and the BC Lions Football Club. EVA CAN assisted federal Status of Women Canada Minister Monsef in launching the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, coordinating the involvement of two *Be More Than A Bystander* spokespeople.

Additionally, through our leadership and vision, EVA CAN brought Status of Women Canada (SWC) to the CFL table where discussions took place about a partnership to bring SWC into the 2017 Ottawa Grey Cup. This led to SWC having a booth at the Grey Cup Festival where they launched their 'take the pledge' campaign in relation to #myactionsmatters. To date upwards of 40,000 people have signed on. We understand the connection between the CFL and SWC will carry on to a 'Fanzone' event prior to the next football season.



EVA CAN's partnership with the CFL also led to a ground breaking, historic presence of the message of men speaking up to end GBV at the play-off games leading up to and including the Grey Cup itself.



The messages were broadcast by way of two videos that were broadcast pre-game at the 4 play offs and the Grey Cup and as well, were posted on both the EVA CAN and CFL Websites.

In addition to the videos, EVA CAN also had a full-page Game Day program advertisement in the 105th Grey Cup Commemorative program.

BE MORE THAN A BYSTANDER
BREAK THE SILENCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

It's an Epidemic

- Almost 70% of Canadians say they know at least one woman who has experienced physical or sexual assault
- 50% of all women in Canada have experienced physical or sexual violence
- 800,000 kids in Canada witness the abuse of their mothers

The CFL Has Taken a Stand Against Gender-Based Violence
You Can Too!

When you see someone being targeted or hurt:

- Refuse to join in on bad behaviour
- Ask her if she is ok
- Stay nearby – just being there can make a difference
- Say something:
"Hey, can't you see she is not ok with what you are doing!"
- Call 911 if there is immediate danger

For More Ways To Find Help And To BE MORE THAN A BYSTANDER Visit:

endingviolence.org youtube.com/user/endingviolencebc
endingviolencecanada.org/getting-help

ENDING VIOLENCE
Association of Canada

#14 | QB Travis Lulay BC LIONS
#55 | DL Jamaal Westerman WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS
#22 | DB Courtney Stephen HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

EVA CAN: Highlights of 2017/18 (cont'd):

EVA CAN PROVIDES CRITICAL SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE TO CANADA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

In Canada, only 5% of sexual assaults are reported to police (Statistics Canada, 2015) with even fewer resulting in charges laid and a national conviction rate of only 0.3% (Johnson, 2012). Law enforcement, criminal justice professionals and gender-based violence advocates must continue to work together to build a criminal justice response to sexual violence that survivors will choose to access; and that is immune from victim-blaming myths and stereotypes. This year, EVA CAN contributed significantly to that work.

One of the EVA Canada Co-Chairs was appointed by the Honorable Jody Wilson-Raybould to consult with other subject matter experts from across Canada on changes to mandatory minimum sentences in Canada.



Both EVA Canada Co-Chairs were asked by the Canadian Judicial Council to consult on the training of new federal judges related to sexual violence.

Both EVA Canada Co-Chairs provided expert advice to the Department of Public Safety regarding potential reforms related to the provision of pardons for sex offenders in Canada.

EVA CAN JOINS THE NATIONAL CONVERSATION ABOUT THE LINK BETWEEN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND VIOLENCE AGAINST ANIMALS

48% of women in abusive relationships stay or delay leaving the relationship for fear of harm or abuse to their pets. One EVA Canada Co-Chair and one Board member from Ontario were asked to lead a national December 6, 2017 ceremony in Ottawa on the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women* at the Canadian Link Conference, the first national conference engaging with the link between violence against humans and violence against animals. .