

# ENDING VIOLENCE

## Association of Canada

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### Why EVA Canada?

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 feminist, 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 Canada Vision

Formed in December 2014, the Ending Violence Association of Canada (EVA Canada) 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) is complex and requires an integrated, cross sector, intersectional analysis. Those who have started EVA Canada believe that the national conversation would be most effective if it included all of the sectors who address gender-based violence.

EVA Canada 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 gateway 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 Canada: What We Do

EVA Canada works with other national organizations, education 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, education institutions and other key organizations in related fields to ensure cross-sectorial collaboration and information exchange at the national level.



## **EVA Canada: Highlights of 2018/2019**

### **Intervenor Status with CFL**

EVA Canada's existing partnership with the CFL has already led to a ground breaking, historic presence of men speaking up to end GBV, and giving a national platform to the *Be More Than a Bystander* program developed through a partnership between the Ending Violence Association of BC and the BC Lions Football Club.

In addition, EVA Canada has previously worked with the CFL to create the CFL's National Policy on violence against women, and this year has stayed on as a Permanent Consultant with Intervenor Status on critical incidents with the CFL. As the CFL are experts in football and not gender-based violence, they seek the input and advice from us whenever a related incident arises. The aim is that those harmed by gender-based violence receive appropriate and timely support, that any decisions made are in keeping with ongoing concerns for the safety of women, children, and the surrounding community, and that those harming others are assessed and offered help as well.

### **Capacity Building Grant**

This year, we received a WAGE Capacity Building Grant with the goal of coordinating a national action plan against gender-based violence. This 48-month project will address organizational capacity needs to allow the organization to continue promoting social and systemic change towards gender equality. Organizational capacity will be enhanced through activities such as strategic and succession planning, partnership development, collaboration and networking, development of an advocacy strategy, and implement result-based management. The organization will develop a national approach to: anti-violence advocacy, influencing social policy, and evaluating and sharing members' best and promising practices. Activities to ensure sustainability will focus on building partnerships with donors and organizations with whom we can undertake shared projects.

The primary project objectives are to develop a robust and effective national anti-violence organizational structure that is representative and has outreach capability to include other particularly vulnerable groups not currently represented in the formal organizational structure, and to develop and begin implementation of a five-year strategic plan.