



CFUW
ONTARIO
COUNCIL

DID YOU KNOW? A few facts to share

GENDERED VIOLENCE IN ONTARIO

- In the CFUW Advocacy Survey done during the Spring 2018, violence against women and girls, women's shelters and human trafficking were the top three local issues across Ontario.
- Between Jan.1 and August 30,2018, 53 Ontario women had been killedⁱ.
- 8 of those women were killed during the van attack of April 23rd. Two men were also killed during that attack.
- In 2016, Statistics Canada reported that 13,986 women in Ontario had been a victim of domestic violence. ⁱⁱ
- In Canada, two-thirds of family violence victims are women, with 78% of the victims of spousal abuse being female.ⁱⁱⁱ
- "In Canada...in 2014, just 5% (use with caution) of sexual assaults against persons 15 years and older were reported to police, a proportion that has remained unchanged over the past decade. This makes sexual assault the violent crime least likely to be reported to police. "^{iv}
- While sexual assaults for Canada were the lowest in Ontario between 2009 and 2014, the Ontario cities of Brantford and Thunder Bay were among the highest. The report did note that this might be as a result of differing police reporting practices.^v
- Thanks to a study done by Robyn Doolittle of the Globe and Mail, "unfounded" sexual assault rates are starting to fall across Canada. Initially the police were dismissing 1 in 5 sexual assault cases. Ontario's unfounded rate had been 25%, now it's 14%.^{vi}
- Ontario has a *Gender-Based Violence Strategy, It's Never Okay*.^{vii}
- Throughout the province there are 33 rape crisis centres and sexual assault centres, 35 centres within hospitals, and more than 110 women's shelters and support centres.

- The main organizations are the Ontario Coalition for Rape Crisis Centers, Ontario Association for Interval & Transition Houses, Ontario Network of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres and the Ontario Native Women’s Association.
- The funding for these come from the Ontario Attorney General, the federal Status of Women Canada, private donations and foundation/corporate grants.
- November is Women Abuse Prevention Month in Ontario. **Wear purple**, and find a women’s shelter to support. Attend your local launch event.^{viii}
- CFUW National every year publishes **16 actions/16 days**, as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, November 25-December 10.
- December 6th is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- The CFUW Charitable Trust has the CFUW 1989 École Polytechnique Commemorative Award to commemorate the 14 young women killed in 1989. Clubs hold December 6th luncheons as fundraisers for this award.
- Clubs join with GRAN, the Grandmothers Advocacy Network, as part of their ORANGE campaign <http://grandmothersadvocacy.org/issue/orange-campaign> . Suggest to your club that you ask your local community to participate by lighting up key buildings or landmarks in **orange**.
- CFUW Ontario Council and CFUW has a number of adopted resolutions or policy concerning violence including bullying, human trafficking, violence at school and post-secondary including one that simply asks “governments to take appropriate steps to improve measures to prevent violence against women”

ⁱ Women’s March Canada, Facebook, October 19

ⁱⁱ Statistics Canada <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54893/02-eng.htm>

ⁱⁱⁱ *ibid*.

^{iv} Cristine Rotenberg, Police-reported sexual assaults in Canada, 2009 to 2014: A statistical profile, 2017 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/54866-eng.htm>

^v *ibid*.

^{vi} Doolittle Robyn, Unfounded rates start to fall in cities across Canada, Aug.2, 2018 <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-unfounded-rates-start-to-fall-in-cities-across-canada/>
Doolittle, Robyn et al (2017). “Unfounded: Will the police believe you?” The Globe and Mail, February 3, 2017.

^{vii} <https://www.ontario.ca/page/lets-stop-sexual-harassment-and-violence>

^{viii} <https://www.oaith.ca/oaith-work/wrapped-in-courage/>