

## From Ontario Council Pre-Budget Submission, Jan. 27, 2019.

### **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE:**

Gender-based violence has a serious economic impact. The last Canadian tally (2009) for violence against women was \$4.8 billion annually, and for men \$2.6 billion, totalling \$7.4 billion<sup>1</sup>.

During January 2018, five Ontario women have been killed allegedly in a domestic violence, and within the GTA, there were twice as many in 2018 as there had been in 2017. Fourteen women and children were killed in 2018 (this does not include the women killed by the van attack or the Danforth shooting.).

Each Human Rights Day December 10th, the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses (OAITH) publishes the Annual Femicide List of women who have been murdered by their current or former male partner in Ontario. The numbers have been increasing.

At the same time, Ontario has seen a 19% increase in police reports of sexual assaults in 2016 and 2017 after #MeToo<sup>2</sup> and according to the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres, the centres have been overwhelmed with requests for counselling, with some of the waiting lists being up to a year long wait<sup>3</sup>.

We must also acknowledge the male victims of sexual abuse, that 1 in 6 males have experienced some form of sexual violence.

We recognize that the government is naturally re-evaluating the work of the previous government. Its program, *It's Never Okay, Ontario's Gender-based Violence Strategy*, did provide a plan for action, plus much needed additional funding to provide the services. The \$11.5 million investment from the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services was an excellent first step.

---

<sup>1</sup> An Estimation of the Economic Impact of Spousal Violence in Canada, 2009 p.80 [https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/rr12\\_7/rr12\\_7.pdf](https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/rr12_7/rr12_7.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Cristine Rotenberg and Adam Cotter, *Police-reported sexual assaults in Canada before and after #MeToo, 2016 and 2017*, November 8, 2018 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54979-eng.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Sexual assault centres are overwhelmed in the #MeToo era <https://sexualassaultsupport.ca/policy-political-action/>