

## Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence Update

March 2021

6th Edition

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thank you for taking the time to find out about our work at Shift. The past few months have provided many markers for Canada's progress in preventing violence and advancing gender equality.

There was International Women's Day, of course — which made me feel both hopeful and determined. The march reminds me of the potential in women when we pull together, but it's also a reminder that we need to redouble our efforts. We're still seeing reports like [#CallItFemicide](#), which released the disturbing statistic that every other day a woman or girl is murdered in Canada.

I want to note that I have a profound appreciation for the colleagues, friends and stakeholders who work hard every day to change that sort of statistic.

This work has only become more critical in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rates of violence against women have climbed as isolation takes its toll. A [2019 report from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives](#) told us that at our current rate, it will take Canada 164 years to achieve gender equality. And the pandemic is extending that time frame even further. The economic chasm we've fallen into has been dubbed a "she-cession" for good reason. Women are losing their jobs faster than men, they're doing double-duty at work and at home, and many are suffering violence from men.

Amidst all this news, there's a beacon of light. In January, 2021, the [Joint Declaration for a Canada free of Gender-Based Violence](#) was endorsed by our federal, provincial and territorial governments. This collaboration is critical to the development of a national action plan to end gender-based violence in Canada. It sends the signal that our lawmakers are willing to collaborate to resolve this pervasive issue.

And change is particularly urgent just now. During the pandemic, we've seen a rise in the frequency and severity of violence against women and children. It's been a difficult reminder that our work is important now, more than ever.

So, again, thank you for spending time catching up with Shift. We are honored to call you our friends and colleagues, and we invite you to click on the highlights below to read more about our work.

Sincerely,  
Lana Wells

## Shift Stories



### Shift makes recommendation to the Government of Canada on engaging men and boys in preventing gender-based violence and advancing gender equality

Shift has created a report in response to a federal government call for recommendations on how to prevent gender-based violence. The report outlines a national strategy focused on how the Government of Canada can invest in concrete, practical strategies to mobilize more men in violence prevention and gender equality.

[Learn more](#)



### Shift partners with Calgary Police Service

The [Calgary Police Service \(CPS\)](#) partnered with Shift on a new research project which aims to advance gender equity and inclusion within CPS. The project offers an opportunity to test a new approach, designed in 2020, called [The Art of the Nudge: Changing Contexts](#).

[Learn more](#)



### **Creating a primary prevention framework in Alberta**

In 2020, Shift partnered with the Government of Alberta and [IMPACT/Sagesse](#), a collective impact organization representing 300 domestic and sexual violence organizations in Alberta, to develop a primary prevention framework to prevent violence here in Alberta. As part of this initiative, Shift helped examine coercive control as a model and approach to abuse prevention.

[Learn more](#)

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### **CallinMen: Answering the question of how we can engage *more* men in preventing violence and advancing gender equality**

To advance gender equality and prevent gender-based violence, men need to be engaged as advocates, changemakers, role models and more. Research proves this time and again. But the question remains: how can this be done? A new Shift research project called CallinMen: Advancing the Field of Engaging Men for Violence Prevention and Gender Equality aims to answer that question.

[Learn more](#)

## **New Publications**

### **[Examining the Use of Virtual Care Interventions to Provide Trauma-Focused Treatment to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Populations](#)**

In partnership with Dr. Stephanie Montesanti, Dr. Peter Silvertson and Winta Ghidei at the University of Alberta, Shift supported results from a rapid knowledge synthesis project on the use and potential of virtual care interventions with domestic and sexual violence populations.

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## [Building a culture of intimate partner violence prevention in Alberta, Canada through the promotion of healthy youth relationships.](#)

Led by Dr. Deinera Exner-Cortens, Lana Wells, Lianne Lee and Vanja Spiric published a peer-reviewed article in the Prevention Science journal that explores the design and implementation of the Alberta Healthy Youth Relationships (AHYR) Strategy - a province-wide practice and policy change initiative in Alberta that aims to prevent intimate partner violence by promoting service provider and systems capacity to support healthy relationships in adolescence and beyond.

### Presentations to watch

The [Engaging Men and Boys Roundtable](#) hosted by the Government of Alberta in September 2020 where Lana presented on the Lessons on engaging and mobilizing men in violence prevention and gender equality.

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Lana's keynote speech on [Engaging informal supports to prevent domestic violence](#) at the 2020 YWCA Edmonton Rose Campaign in Edmonton, Alberta.

### Shift in the news

**Rocky Mountain Outlook**  
[Shifting gears on child sexual abuse](#)

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**770 CHQR**  
[The Morning News with Sue Deyell and Andrew Schultz: Interview on domestic violence in Alberta](#)

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**UToday**  
[New collaboration helps women escape domestic violence](#)

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**UToday**  
[Social work researcher to help create national plan to stop violence against women](#)

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**St. Albert Gazette**

[It did get taken out on me: Domestic abuse climbs during economic downturn, pandemic](#)

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