



**An Act implementing a national action plan to end violence against women and girls
and to support expanded services for survivors of sexual assault**

Whereas, violence against women and girls is a prevalent problem in Canadian society that has been inadequately addressed;

Whereas, Canada must take a new approach if it wishes to eliminate gender based violence;

And Whereas, all Canadians are entitled to a life free of violence and abuse;

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

Short Title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Gender Based Violence Prevention Act*

Interpretation

2. These definitions apply to the Act:

“reserve” is as defined in subsection 2(1) of the *Indian Act*;

“Minister” is the Minister of Social Development;

Purpose of Act

3. The purpose of this Act is to create a nation wide approach in collaboration with interest groups and community supports, working towards eliminating gender based violence facing women and girls. Additionally, this legislation will continue to expand access to resources to protect survivors of sexual, physical, and mental abuse.

Creation of a National Action Plan

4. The Minister in consultation with representatives from provincial, territorial and municipal governments, nonprofit and private sector safety housing providers and civil society organizations, and Indigenous communities must establish a national action plan to to address violence against women and girls.
5. The Minister, in consultation with the same representatives enumerated in section 4 must develop a coordinated approach to the implementation of the national action plan and may provide advice and assistance in the development and implementation of programs and practices in support of the strategy.

An Indigenous conscious National Action Plan

6. The Minister must collaborate with the Minister of Indigenous Affairs in the creation of provisions that support the implementation of the national action plan by First Nations, Métis and Inuit organizations on reserves.

Intersectionality in the National Action Plan

7. The established national action plan must include consultation from organizations including advocacy for including but not limited to
 - a. young people;
 - b. senior citizens;
 - c. Canadians living with physical and mental disabilities;
 - d. immigrants and refugees;
 - e. LGBTQ+ individuals;
 - f. racialized Canadians.

Sustained multi year funding for support groups

8. The Minister must

- a. within two years after the coming into force of this Act and every two years after, convene a conference of the representatives enumerated in section 4, for the purpose of
 - i. developing standards and set objectives and targets for the national action plan referred to in section 4 with accountability mechanisms, and develop programs to carry out the plan;
 - ii. setting dates and targets for the commencement of the programs referred to in paragraph (a);
 - iii. developing the principles of an agreement between the federal government and representatives enumerated in section 4, for the development, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the programs referred to in paragraph (a); and
- b. maintain all appropriations for the delivery of the national action plan are to be costed and implemented by the federal government.

The Criminal Code is amended by adding the following after section 264 (4) (b)

- 9.** Where a person is convicted of an offence under this section, the court imposing the sentence on the person shall consider as an aggravating factor that, at the time the offence was committed, the victim was the target of criminal harassment on the basis of gender or sexuality.

The Criminal Code is amended by adding the following after section 264.1 (1) (c)

10. (d) violate the sexual integrity of any person.

In Force

11. This Act will go into effect 30 days upon receiving Royal Assent.