

**Ontario Association of Women's Centres (OAWC)
Women's Equality Advocacy Resource Guide**

**ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF
WOMEN'S CENTRES**

National Organizations

Organization	Issues	Resources for developing knowledge of the issue	Tools for strategizing and taking action	Contact
<p>National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL) http://www.nawl.ca The National Association of Women and the Law is a national non-profit feminist organization that promotes the achievement of social justice and equality for Canadian women through legal education and law reform.</p>	<p>The need for a gender perspective in immigration and refugee issues (positions include family class sponsorship regimes that foster women's equality, that financial self-sufficiency not be a requirement for granting permanent residency on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, that domestic workers be admitted as landed immigrants, and a number of reforms that support issues related to victims of smuggling and trafficking).</p>	<p>Recommendations for Improving Immigration Law http://www.nawl.ca/ns/en/documents/Public_Brief_Imm06_en.doc (Updates on of the impact of the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Act on immigrant and refugee women). Also available in French.</p>		<p>Andrée Côté, Director of Legislation and Law Reform info@nawl.ca 613-241-7570</p>
	<p>Violations of women's human rights in many different areas, from penitentiaries to national security policy to the application of the Canadian Human Rights Act itself.</p>	<p>Women and Human Rights http://www.nawl.ca/ns/en/is-whr.html (Web page describing different human rights issues NAWL advocates for). Also available in French.</p>	<p>Workshop Kit http://www.nawl.ca/ns/en/documents/PubEd_HRightsatWork_05_en.pdf (For exploring discrimination and harassment, accommodation, and equality in the workplace with information on ways to improve legislation). Also available in French.</p>	

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National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL) continued	Maternity and Parental Benefits Improvements to benefits under the EI act, improvements to employment standards governing maternity and parental leave and options for a universal support program.	Draft proposals for law reform http://www.nawl.ca/ns/en/documents/200611NAWLdraftMPB.doc (Describes proposals for improving maternity and parental benefits).	Workshop and Consultation Kit http://www.nawl.ca/ns/en/documents/PubEd_MatParental_05_en.pdf (For engaging, learning and strategizing about law reforms that will improve women's equality in this area)	
	Pay Equity - Women working full-time still earn 71% of men's salaries, regardless of age, occupation or education. For women of colour, Aboriginal women and women with a disability, the wage gap is even greater.	Pay Equity Information Sheet http://www.nawl.ca/ns/en/documents/PE_InfoSheet_eng.rtf (Questions and answers about pay equity rights). NAWL's Recommendations on Pay Equity: http://www.nawl.ca/ns/en/documents/PE_sumNAWLrec.eng.doc (Twelve recommendations for pay equity legislation).	Call to Action http://www.nawl.ca/ns/en/documents/PE_CallAction_eng.rtf Workshop and Consultation Kit http://www.nawl.ca/ns/en/documents/PubEd_PayEq_05_en.pdf (For learning how the present pay equity system operates. and how groups and individuals can help reduce pay inequities).	

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<p>Native Women's Association of Canada http://www.nwac-hq.org/en/index.html The Native Women's Association of Canada helps empower women by being involved in developing and changing legislation which affects them, and by involving them in the development and delivery of programs promoting equal opportunity for Aboriginal women.</p>	<p>Matrimonial Real Property rights and the protection of the interests of women and children.</p>	<p>Report on Matrimonial Real Property Issues http://www.nwac-hq.org/en/documents/CR_English.pdf (Background information to inform discussion of possible legislative solutions for the provisions of matrimonial real property rights. Note that this is a large file that may take time to download). Also available in French.</p>		<p>Robert . McDonald Team Lead, Communication and Education rmcdonald@nwac-hq.org 613-722-3033</p>
	<p>Violence against Aboriginal (First Nations Inuit and Métis) women particularly racialized and/or sexualized violence, which is perpetrated against Aboriginal women because of their gender and Aboriginal identity.</p>	<p>Sisters in Spirit Campaign Background http://www.nwac-hq.org/en/background.html (Information on campaign calling for solutions to the violence Aboriginal women encounter in Canada). Also available in French.</p>	<p>Awareness Raising http://www.nwac-hq.org/en/awareness.html (Newsletter and planning materials on how to organize a Sisters in Spirit vigil) Also available in French.</p>	<p>Theresa Ducharme 613-722-3033 ext 243</p>

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<p>YWCA Canada www.ywca.ca YWCA Canada's mission is to be a voice for women in Canada, one that brings about policy and legislative changes that reflect women's needs.</p>	<p>Violence - Raising awareness and taking action to reduce the power violence has on everyday life.</p>	<p>Week without Violence Campaign Description http://www.weekwithoutviolence.ca/1-home.cfm (Web page that links to information on the campaign that calls on all Canadians to speak out against violence). Also available in French.</p>	<p>Organizers Kit http://www.weekwithoutviolence.ca/OrgKits/WWVOrgKit.pdf (A guide to planning week without violence activities). Also available in French</p> <p>Media Kit http://www.weekwithoutviolence.ca/OrgKits/WWVMediaKit.doc (Tips and tools to get the message out, work with media, sample letters to the editor). Also available in French.</p>	<p>Jenny Robinson, Director of Advocacy national@ywca.ca 416.962.8881</p>
	<p>Ensuring the safety of women and girls in their communities so that they may reach their fullest potential.</p>	<p>The December 6 Rose Button Campaign Description http://www.ywca.ca/public_eng/events/index.cfm?Heading1_link=rose_button_campaign&Heading2_link=rose_button_campaign&Heading3_link=rose_button_campaign&Heading4_link=rose_button_campaign&Hlinks=1 (Web page that describes how the campaign dispels stereotypes and supports the rights of women to higher education in any area, including fields traditionally male-dominated). Also available in French.</p>	<p>Taking Action Against Violence Young Women Leadership Kit http://www.ywca.ca/public_eng/online_catalog/downloads/youth_kit.zip (Resources and program activities for youth leaders who work with girls and young women ages). Also available in French.</p>	

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<p>Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) www.elizabethfry.ca CAEFS is an association of self-governing, community-based Elizabeth Fry Societies that work with and for women and girls in the justice system, particularly those who are, or may be, criminalized. The association exists to ensure substantive equality in the delivery and development of services and programs through public education, research, legislative and administrative reform, regionally, nationally and internationally.</p>	<p>Discrimination and human rights violations faced by all women involved in the Canadian criminal justice system.</p>	<p>10th Anniversary of the Arbour Commission Report http://www.elizabethfry.ca/arbr10e.pdf (How the recommendations of a 1996 Commission of Inquiry by the Honourable Justice Louise Arbour have not been acted upon and remain issues of deep concern today).</p>	<p>10 Years and Waiting http://www.elizabethfry.ca/waiting.pdf (Media release and contacts for joint action)</p>	<p>caefs@web.ca (613) 238-2422</p>
	<p>Women in the criminal justice system are highly likely to victims of physical and sexual abuse and to have experienced poverty.</p>	<p>Violence Against Women and Children Fact Sheet http://www.elizabethfry.ca/eweek07/pdf/violence.pdf (Presents facts and statistics to illustrate patterns of vulnerability to abuse and links between poverty, abuse and criminalization),</p>		

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<p>Equal Voice http://www.equalvoice.ca/ Equal Voice is a national group of women and men dedicated to nominating more women candidates and electing more women to every level of government in Canada</p>	<p>Barriers encountered by women seeking elected office.</p>	<p>Frequently Asked Questions and Facts http://www.equalvoice.ca/idx.php?rl=212 (A web page with questions, answers and statistics).</p> <p>Women in Canadian Politics Backgrounder http://www.equalvoice.ca/uploads/264461e5a8e632ed.pdf (Information on gender-based government and how women politicians can make a difference).</p>	<p>What Can I Do? http://www.equalvoice.ca/idx.php?rl=27&lid=1 (A web page listing things individuals can do to support the cause).</p>	<p>Ann Wicks, Executive Director awicks@equalvoice.ca (613) 294-0872</p>
<p>Ad Hoc Coalition for Women's Equality and Human Rights www.womensequality.ca The Ad Hoc Coalition for Women's Equality and Human Rights has come together in opposition to the anti-equality policies of the federal Conservative government.</p>	<p>Cancellation of federal provincial child care agreements, elimination of Court Challenges Program (for those fighting to ensure their equality rights) no implementation of pro-active federal pay equity legislation, cuts to Status of Women Canada and funding of groups who do research and advocacy.</p>	<p>Putting Equality Back on Track Campaign http://www.womensequality.ca/iwdcampaign.html (Web page describing the activities taking place, the reasons for the activity and how to keep the momentum going).</p>	<p>Put Equality Back on Track Brochure http://www.womensequality.ca/pamphlet_PDF/equality_b&w.pdf Also available in colour.</p>	<p>info@womensequality.ca</p>

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<p>Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA)/ L'Alliance canadienne féministe pour l'action internationale http://www.fafia-afai.org FAFIA is a coalition of over 75 Canadian women's equality-seeking and related organizations. FAFIA's mandate is to further women's equality in Canada through domestic implementation of its' international human rights commitments.</p>	<p>The importance of social programs to human rights for women.</p>	<p>Strengthening the Canada Social Transfer: A call to account http://www.fafia-afai.org/files/Strengthening the Canada Social Transfer FAFIA.pdf (Describes how with the introduction of the Canada Social Transfer, social programs have been significantly eroded, with recognized detrimental effects on women). Also available in French.</p>		<p>Nancy Peckford, Director of Programs npeckford@fafia-afai.org 613-232-9505 ext. 222</p>
	<p>Canada's violation of certain women's equality rights.</p>	<p>Canada's Failure to Act: Women's Inequality Deepens http://www.fafia-afai.org/en/node/164 (Submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on the Occasion of the Committee's Review of Canada's 5th Report, January 2003). Also available in French.</p>		

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<p>Women Elders in Action (WE*ACT) http://www.vcn.bc.ca/411/Contentpages/we_act.htm The mission of Women Elders in Action is to raise awareness and to act on the most pressing social and economic issues facing older women.</p>	<p>Pension reform to address poverty of senior women</p>	<p>Pensions in Canada: Policy Reform Because Women Matter http://www.vcn.bc.ca/411/PDF%20Files/Final%20Position%20Paper.pdf (Position paper that examines factors that affect women's pensions, and makes recommendations for addressing the inadequacies of the pension system many senior women are dependent on.)</p>	<p>Endorsement Form http://www.vcn.bc.ca/411/PDF%20Files/Endorsement%20Form.pdf (A document that can be used to show support for a review of public pensions as they currently exist to offer more protection to senior women.)</p>	<p>Jan Westlund, Coordinator jwestlund@411seniors.bc.ca 604 684 -8171</p>