

Not Optional! 4 Building Blocks for Collaboration Between Local Governments & Community Organizations to End GBV



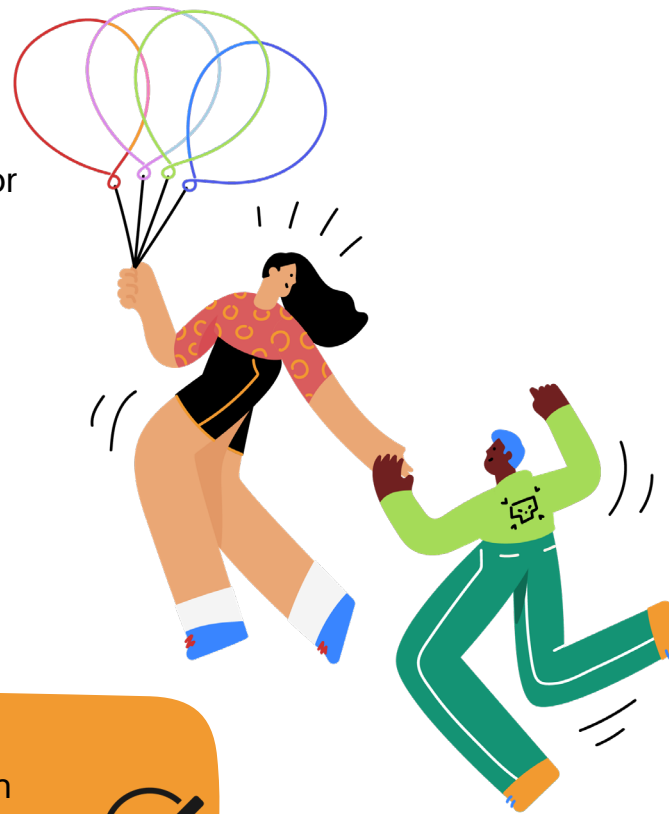
Gender-based violence (GBV) has negative health, economic, social, and political impacts on all communities across Canada. Collaboration between local governments and community organizations is an integral part of ending GBV. We highlight the importance of this collaboration here: [*Stronger Together: 3 Reasons for Local Governments & Community Organizations to Collaborate to End GBV*](#)

While collaboration occurs in different ways and evolves over time, all successful collaborations are built on four fundamentals:

1. Respect and recognition of one another's expertise and limitation

Recognize that community organizations are experts who have built valuable relationships of trust with communities. They bring extensive knowledge on violence prevention and the need for diverse supports for survivors.

- Acknowledge that local governments can establish and enforce mechanisms that ensure the safety of all individuals in the community through additional resources and funding.
- Appreciate that both local governments and community organizations grapple with constraints (e.g. financial, limited capacity, burnout) and external factors that can affect collaboration.



ACTIONABLE TIP

Schedule an initial discussion about what each party can contribute and the constraints they face in doing so, to ensure **expectations and capacity are clearly communicated.**



2. Meaningful and intentional engagement

- Ensure collaboration remains a priority and doesn't fall off the radar even if momentum slows.
- Maintain resolve and lead with an "in-it-to-end-it" mindset despite challenges or setbacks.

ACTIONABLE TIP

Formalize collaboration through an agreement (e.g. memorandum of understanding) that includes **realistic short-term and long-term goals, and measurable indicators of progress.**



3. Trust, transparency, and mutual accountability

- Demonstrate confidence in one another's ability to lead or support initiatives.
- Create safe spaces for dialogue, exchange of ideas, and honest conversations that empower the individuals contributing to the partnership.



ACTIONABLE TIP

Review **shared objectives and progress** on a regular basis in an honest, transparent way (e.g. ask "are we making progress while adapting to emerging priorities?")



4. Strong commitment to ending GBV

- Understand that there is no "simple" solution to ending GBV; profound structural and social changes are needed at all levels of society.
- Through collaboration, change is possible!

ACTIONABLE TIP

Ground the partnership's key objectives in a common shared vision: **safe communities, free from violence and oppression, that advance gender equality and human rights.**



Collaboration Spotlight

In 2022, the City of Laval collaborated with the shelter organization *Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale (Regroupement)*, to receive the certification of Milieu de travail sensibilisé. Informed and guided by the *Regroupement*, Laval put in place measures for survivors of domestic violence among their staff, in recognition that violence does not remain in the confines of a home. This demonstrates that employers such as local governments, together with community groups, can create a safer environment in which all can thrive.

For more information about this certification program (French only): <https://milieuxdetravailallies.com>



This infographic was produced by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Canadian Women in Local Leadership project with funding from the federal government through Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) and in partnership with the Learning Network at the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children.

Western  Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children
LEARNING NETWORK

FCM FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES MUNICIPALITÉS



Women and Gender Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité des genres Canada