

Gender-Based Violence & Newcomer Perspectives: Mapping of Canadian Policies (2010-2023)

Context

Newcomers, including immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, face unique challenges when experiencing gender based domestic violence (GBV) including:

- Pre- and post- migration trauma, strain, and stigma (1)
- Language barriers, lack of culturally appropriate services (1)
- Discrimination/racism when accessing service delivery (1)
- Limited knowledge on Canadian policies (1)
- Fear of deportation and limited knowledge on Human Rights
- Reluctant to report domestic violence to the police
- Social isolation from family and communities of support

Therefore, it is crucial to assess the impact of Canadian policies and initiatives on relevant to domestic violence on newcomer populations to understand how to provide effective supports services/resources.

Purpose

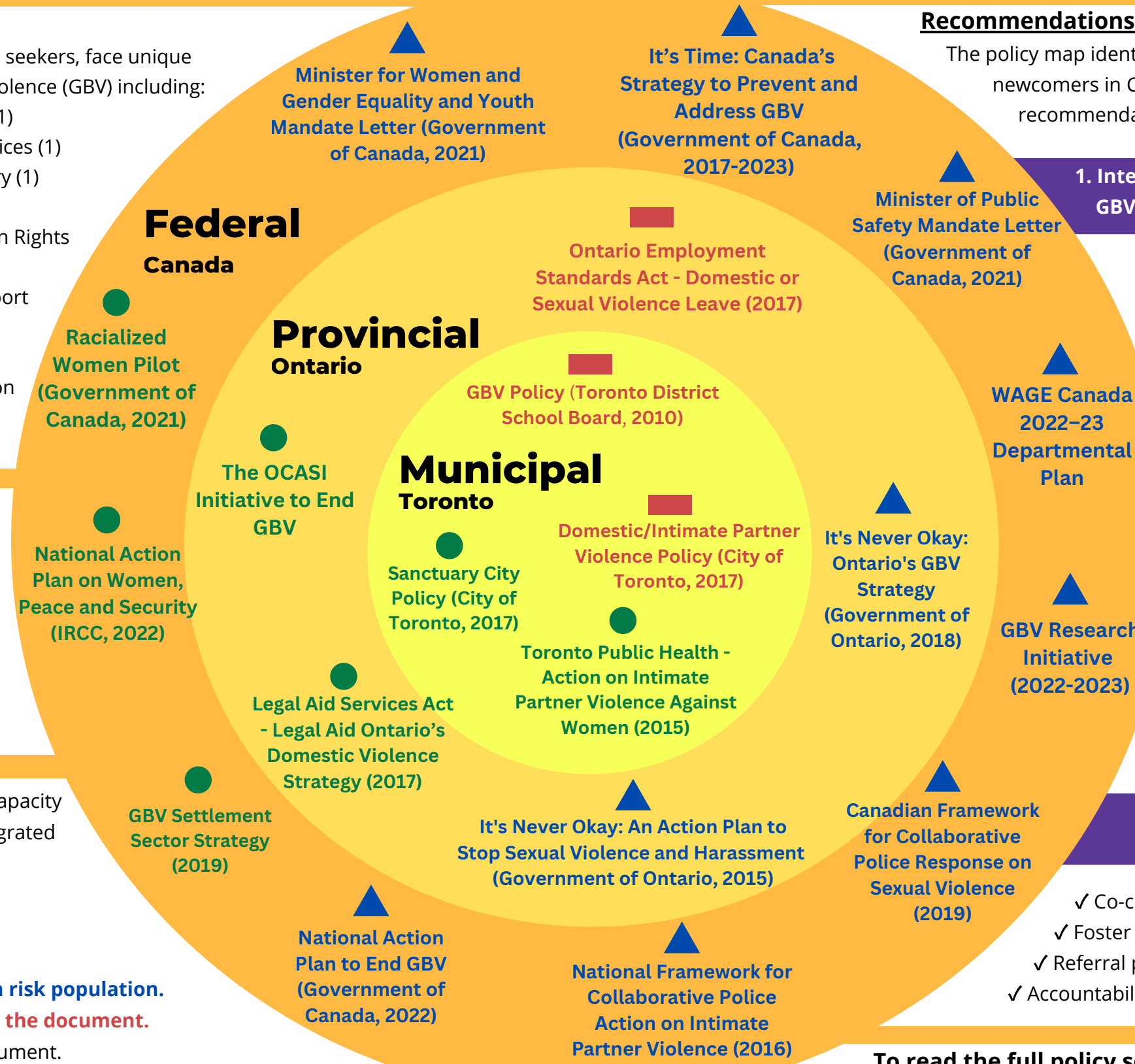
This visual map was developed from a policy scan (see link below) to capture Canadian GBV policies from 2010-2023, at a Municipal, Provincial, and Federal level.

This map will inform Access Alliance and other agencies, policy-makers, and researchers on the GBV policy landscape with newcomer perspectives.

Policies and initiatives are categorized according to the capacity at which newcomer perspectives were mentioned & integrated in each domestic violence policy and initiative:

- **Integrated: Newcomers are the primary focus or are incorporated throughout the policy.**
- ▲ **Limited: Newcomers are mentioned in a limited capacity (1-2 times) or in one statement as a high risk population.**
- **Not mentioned: Does not mention newcomers in the document.**

EXPLORE: Click on each policy to see original source document.



Recommendations

The policy map identifies key policy limitations in addressing GBV among newcomers in Canada. Based on existing evidence, the following recommendations represent priority areas for advocacy:

1. Integrate newcomer perspectives in existing and prospective GBV policies to ensure their unique experiences are addressed.

- ✓ Tailored cultural supports
- ✓ Unique barriers
- ✓ Lived experiences
- ✓ Adopt an intersectionality lens to account for newcomer identities
- ✓ Ensure newcomer perspective are consistently present
- ✓ Publicly accessible and feasible reporting in multiple languages

2. Make connections between immigration and GBV policies to mitigate contradicting legislation and address newcomer GBV issues holistically.

- ✓ Investigate how Immigration & Social Determinants of Health impact GBV policies
- ✓ E.g. Federal Acts - Immigration and Refugee Protection & National Housing Strategy
- ✓ E.g. Provincial Acts - Legal Aid, Ontario Works, Employment Standards, Residential Tenancies & Housing Services.
- ✓ Implement feedback and evaluation to measure effectiveness of policies impacting newcomers

3. Strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration to address the complex challenges faced by newcomers.

- ✓ Co-creation of services and resources with newcomers
- ✓ Foster reliable inter-organizational connections (e.g. healthcare, legal)
- ✓ Referral pathways
- ✓ Identify strengths
- ✓ Knowledge exchange
- ✓ Accountability and skills building for service providers

To read the full policy scan report [Click Here](#)