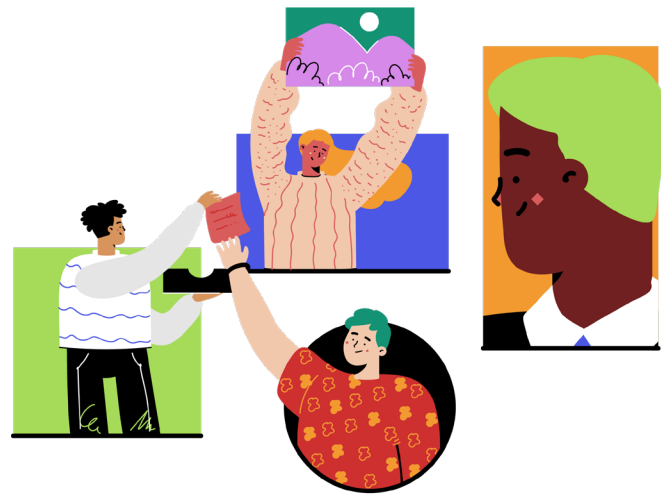


# Stronger Together! 3 Reasons for Local Governments & Community Organizations to Collaborate to End GBV

Gender-based violence (GBV) continues to be a pervasive issue in communities across Canada and is a significant barrier to the advancement of gender equality and equitable civic engagement. For instance, the rise of online harassment can impede women's political participation in the municipal sector and their inclusion in key areas of civic leadership.



Collaboration between local governments and community organizations dedicated to gender equality and anti-violence work (e.g. shelters, rape crisis centers, survivor-led organizations, settlement services, etc.) can accelerate the achievement of results in the fight against GBV, and help create more inclusive, engaged, and safe communities for all.

GBV is violence directed at an individual because of their gender, gender expression, gender identity or perceived gender. It is a violation of human rights.

The impacts of GBV are compounded for individuals who experience social marginalization, including sexism, racism, colonialism, and ableism.



## 3 key reasons why collaboration is essential for the success of anti-GBV efforts.

### 1. A complex problem requires a coordinated response



- GBV is a **serious social problem with interconnected root causes**. It is best tackled with comprehensive GBV prevention efforts, education and solutions that bring together local government agencies, supported by the expertise and reach of anti-GBV and other community organizations.
- Collaboration can help break down silos between community members and agencies. It can also identify critical gaps and point to appropriate strategies and responses.

## 2. Credibility and resources are required for change:

- Achieving impact requires access to systems, structures, as well as community members
- **Collaboration leverages the complementary resources** and access points of local governments and community partners.
- Community organizations involved in violence prevention and front-line supports for survivors have:
  - Led decades of work and advocacy
  - Built trusting and meaningful relationships with diverse communities and groups.
  - Ensured the voices of those with lived experiences of violence and oppression are at the core of GBV initiatives.
- Local governments are uniquely positioned to drive social change through their own internal operations and financial allocations, as well as the delivery of municipal services.

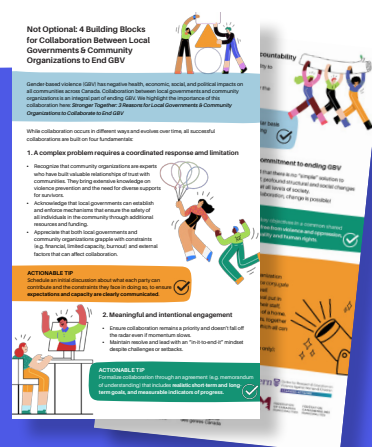


## 3. Shared commitment and mutual accountability results in greater collective impact



- Collaboration allows local governments and community organizations to leverage one another's existing resources.
- Through dynamic and ongoing collaboration, local governments and community organizations addressing GBV can identify, implement, monitor, and evaluate solutions that **lead to safer, inclusive and vibrant communities for all.**
- Collaboration allows both local governments and community organizations to be proactive and put in place policies and programs that address the needs of all people.

Women and gender-diverse community members deserve to live and work in safety and dignity. Action at the local level can bring long-lasting change and save lives when done collaboratively. The time to act is now – reach out to your counterparts today. [Read more on the 4 building blocks essential to successful collaboration between local governments and community organizations!](#)



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  
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