



## Government focal points

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Pathfinding since February 2018



**Government  
Contacts and  
References**

## Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

**2004**

Canada launched [A Canada Fit for Children](#), the government's response to the 2002 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children. The plan reaffirmed the government's commitment to making children and families national priorities.

**2004**

The Supreme Court of Canada found that Section 42 was constitutional but significantly narrowed its application to the use of minor force that is reasonable under the circumstances. The Court also prohibited the use of corporal punishment in schools.

**2015**

Canada published the [Action Plan to Address Family Violence and Violent Crimes Against Aboriginal Women and Girls](#), a multi-sector federal government initiative that supports preventing violence through community-led solutions, supporting victims with appropriate services, and improving law enforcement and justice systems.

**2017**

Canada launched [It's Time: Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence](#) to support survivors and their families and promote responsive legal and justice systems. The Strategy fills gaps in support for diverse populations.

**2018**

In September, Canada noted recommendations made during its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings.

**2019**

The 2019 budget provides an additional funding of CAD\$1.4 billion over six years to First Nations Child and Family Services agencies and to increase prevention resources for communities. Canada also committed \$1.7 billion over 10 years to strengthen early learning and childcare services for Indigenous children and families.



**Multi-stakeholder  
Collaboration and  
Consultation  
with Children**

- Multiple sectors are involved in promoting children's rights in Canada, including public health, indigenous services, justice, social development, public safety and statistics. Although governing documents and actions plans are typically developed by the federal and provincial/territorial governments, Canada has adopted a multi-stakeholder approach to ending violence, consulting frequently with the Canadian public and other partners when developing plans of action and agendas. Several multisectoral mechanisms exist in the country to promote children's rights and well-being, including the federal-level Interdepartmental Working Group on Children's Rights. Since 1988, the Government of Canada has worked across sectors to address family violence through the [Family Violence Initiative](#) (FVI), which brings together 14 departments and agencies to prevent and respond to violence and to support survivors. This collaborative initiative has adopted a life course perspective to address common risk factors and the interconnectedness of various forms of family violence, ranging from child maltreatment to intimate partner violence and abuse of older adults.
- In June 2019, the Government of Canada supported UNICEF Canada to organize and convene a multi-sectoral workshop aimed at strengthening collaboration across sectors and identifying opportunities for accelerated action to end violence against children.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) will be working with the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC), UNICEF Canada and PrevNet on this initiative to gather input from civil society organizations and young people to inform a more robust and cooperative strategy in Canada.

- Data on VAC comes from self-reported, professionally-reported, and administrative sources.
- The *General Social Survey* (GSS) on victimization collects information on childhood victimization experiences of Canadians aged 15 and older. Data is collected every five years.
- The *Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect* (CIS), including the *First Nations Incidence Study*, provides information about children and families reported to child welfare agencies due to concerns about child maltreatment.
- In 2012, the *Canadian Community Health Survey – Mental Health* (CCHS-MH) included information on childhood abuse and exposure to intimate partner violence in Canadians aged 18 and older.
- In 2018, the *Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces* collected data on Canadian’s perception of their safety in public and private spaces. Questions were asked about personal experiences at home, at school, in the workplace, in public spaces and online. Data from the survey will be used to help develop programs and services adapted to the needs of the population.
- In July 2018, the most recent *Uniform Crime Reporting Survey* was released. It includes ongoing data collection from police services, showing trends in violent crimes against children reported to the police.



### Data Collection and Situation Analysis



### Collective Action and INSPIRE

- Canada does not currently have a comprehensive national roadmap or action plan dedicated to violence against children. Recent federal strategies and plans addressing gender-based violence, housing and homelessness, poverty reduction, early learning and childcare have been launched, which touch upon children’s rights and welfare. Multiple action plans dealing with child and family welfare exist at the provincial and territorial level including those that address the needs of Indigenous children and youth. One such plan is the *National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet* (2004, 2009) enforced by the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC).
- Canada’s criminal code and provincial/territorial laws protect children from all forms of violence. Corporal punishment is prohibited in penal institutions in Canada. Many provinces and territories have laws and policies prohibiting the use of corporal punishment of children in foster homes, childcare settings, and schools. In 2004, the Supreme Court of Canada prohibited the use of corporal punishment in schools and included guidelines, which narrowed the application of the defense in section 43 of the Criminal Code to minor corrective force.

### Reporting into CRCs and SDGs



Reported to the CRC in 2012.  
Underwent UPR in 2018.



Reported to the High-Level  
Political Forum in 2018.



### Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

#### Build political will/ global movement

1. Under the leadership of PHAC, develop a multi-sectoral roadmap that includes core indicators to track Canada’s progress towards ending violence against children.
2. Promote Violence Against Children and Youth Networks during the Women Deliver conference in Vancouver, in June 2019.
3. Continue to discourage the use of physical punishment of children through parenting education and publications.

#### Resource mobilization

4. Explore possible collaborations and engage across sectors to encourage resource mobilization at the multi-sectoral workshop organized by UNICEF Canada in June 2019.

#### Equip practitioners

5. Document Canada’s efforts, led by the Health Sector, at combining efforts to end violence against women and against children.
6. Strengthen Canada’s coordination mechanism with civil society organizations in the country.
7. Ensure that the factors contributing to the high levels of violence among Indigenous women and girls are well understood and addressed in national and provincial/ territorial plans.