



## **ENGAGE and INFORM GOVERNMENT: STRATEGY & PROPOSED ACTION**

### **41 women and girls were killed in Ontario in the first six months of 2018.<sup>1</sup>**

The Southwest Region VAW Coordinating Committee (SWRCC) has developed a regional strategy to engage and inform the new government.<sup>2</sup> Participating VAWCCs will gather local stats that create a 'snapshot' for local politicians of the overlapping realities of VAW and related issues in their home community. We want our elected officials to be well informed about their constituents as decisions are being made about how best to help Ontario thrive.

We need to measure success not by the wealthy but by the health and wellbeing of our most vulnerable people.

The Snapshot 2018 infographic (see sample) will show the real world collision of violence, trauma, oppression, health, mental health and addictions in your community. Communities across Ontario experience increasing pressures in a 'do more with less' society where so many people have to struggle to survive, even with full-time jobs. As incredible wealth flows up to the very few – 87 families in Canada to be precise, the struggle to survive for too many; presses down.<sup>3</sup> Snapshot 2018 is designed to bring together different local issues into a bigger shared picture that can help us recognize and respect the complexity of people's lives.

**Snapshot tools have been developed and are available for any coordinating committee that wants to gather and share local information.** Committees can customize the tools to reflect their community.

The tools:

- Email communications with VAWCC members
- Template to gather data for SNAPSHOT 2018
- Infographic that rolls the data up for meetings with politicians (sample)
- Sample letter to request meetings with politicians
- Ideas about how to use Snapshot

<sup>1</sup> The Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability: [mid-year report](https://femicideincanada.ca/mid2018report)  
<https://femicideincanada.ca/mid2018report>

<sup>2</sup> The Southwest Region VAW Coordinating Committee (SWRCC) is a regional table of nine VAW Coordinating Committees in the southwest of Ontario that have been meeting since 2005.

<sup>3</sup> The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives [reports](#) that 87 wealthiest Canadians own as much wealth as 12 Million lowest earning Canadians put together.

The strategy is for VAWCCs to request meetings with local MPPs of all parties. It was suggested that each committee take a small delegation to the meeting(s) and provide a 'snapshot' of local stats. When meeting with politicians, make the stats alive by telling stories about people. Talk about the many ways we work together in community to address the real world problems that so many Ontarians are experiencing. Ask them to help us.

Premier Doug Ford has said "Help is Here" for the lower-middle class members of society. This means many people working in the VAW field as well as many of the folks served by VAWCC member agencies.

### **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS A NON-PARTISAN ISSUE – engage all political parties at all levels of government**

Talk to your committee about using your Snapshot to expand beyond meeting with the provincial government. Meet with your MPs and municipal politicians. All parties and levels of government have a stake in the health and wellbeing of our citizens. **Gender-based violence is a non-partisan issue with high costs that cascade across communities, sectors and generations.** Municipalities in Ottawa and Toronto actually contribute funds to their VAWCCs. This is the case to be made in every community.

### **LEADERSHIP**

We need politicians of all parties and bureaucrats at all levels of the system **to work together and to partner with local community leaders under the big VAW tent.** We all have a role to play. How can we realize the best possible social return on our taxpayer investments? By thinking and working together for the common good. It is in all of our interests to pull in the same direction.

### **JOIN US!**

**If your committee decides to participate,** send the completed Snapshot data template to Margaret at [m.macpherson@execulink.com](mailto:m.macpherson@execulink.com). There is no deadline – the infographic can be assembled when your information is ready. Your information will be customized on the infographic that you can take to your meetings. No costs are involved other than the time for your members to collect the information.

### **THE BIGGER PICTURE**

If enough committees participate – we will develop a regional and provincial infographic.