

Introducing A Campaign by the Canadian Association for Equality (CAFE)

**“HALF of domestic violence victims are men,  
but NO domestic violence shelters are dedicated to us.”**



**HALF** of domestic violence victims are men.  
**NO** domestic violence shelters are dedicated to us.  
**#LetsTalkMen**

Donate to our programs for boys and men  
[www.equalitycanada.com](http://www.equalitycanada.com)

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
**EQUALITY**

**Let's bring this billboard to cities across Canada.**

**Campaign website: <http://equalitycanada.com/cause/violenceagainstmen/>**

Donate at the link above, then join the conversation. #LetsTalkMen

### **Why are we hosting this campaign?**

CAFE is dedicated to advancing evidence-based public policies and bringing services to all those who need support. Policies and services should be built on facts rather than beholden to ideologies. Our billboard advertising campaign will highlight a variety of areas in which our gender dialogue needs to evolve. When we are concerned with the health and welfare of both men and women, our families are stronger and our communities are healthier.

### **The Basic Facts on Gender and Violence in Canada**

A similar proportion of men and women experienced domestic violence during the five years prior to the 2009 Statistics Canada survey. Among men, 6.0% or about 585,000, encountered spousal violence during this period, compared with 6.4% or 601,000 women. In Canada more women than men report being pushed, shoved or slapped while more men than women report being kicked, bit, or hit with something.

### **What are the resources available to men who are abused by their partners?**

Not much. After extensive research we found not a single agency in Toronto dedicated to male victims of domestic violence. Across Canada we found exactly one agency – the Men's Resource Centre in Winnipeg – which offers four beds for battered men. When it comes to men attempting to escape domestic abuse situations along with their children, we found zero facilities dedicated to these families in trouble. Many domestic abuse shelters are publicly funded. Public funds should be assigned based on need and not on gender.

**For full sources on all statements in this document visit the link above. Check out Myths and Facts on the back**



### ***Equality Means Equality for Everyone***

Visit us at the Canadian Centre for Men and Families

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Charity/Business No. 841583719RR0001

**Myth: Men are far less likely to be victims of female-perpetrated violence than the reverse.**

Fact: Men are nearly as likely to have been victimized by their female partners as women are by their male partners.

Source: Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/110127/dq110127a-eng.htm>

**Myth: Violence is uni-directional, that is a stronger partner commits violence against a weaker one.**

Fact: Among large population samples, 57.9% of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) reported was bi-directional, that is committed mutually by both partners, whereas only 42% was unidirectional. Of the unidirectional violence, 13.8% was male to female (MFPV) and 28.3% was female to male (FMPV). In other words, a significant majority of violence in which women are victims is actually mutual violence.

**Myth: Men and women abuse their partners for different reasons.**

Fact: The reasons that men and women abuse their partners are the same. The most common reasons that people of both genders abuse are coercion, anger and attempts to punish a partner for misbehaviour, especially sexual infidelity.

**Myth: The kind of violence experienced by men is less severe than that experienced by women.**

Fact: There is a raging debate on this very question. A 2009 Canadian Department of Justice study found different studies supporting different conclusions. Sociologists Richard B. Felson and Alison C. Cares found that male victims sustained worse injuries than did females. The risk of injury to either partner is also highest when both partners are violent so addressing domestic violence perpetrated by women will increase safety for both genders.

**Myth: We need not take male victimization seriously because men are stronger and can leave their partner.**

Fact: An important study on male victims of violence debunks the common sexist excuses for trivializing male victimization: *“A related assumption is that men who sustain IPV from their women partners can leave their partners. Some researchers argue that men are not economically trapped in marriage or romantic relationships like women, because their incomes and occupational statuses tend to be higher; they are not physically or economically constrained from leaving, nor are they as psychologically invested in the children or household. Nonetheless, case studies show that men who sustain IPV often focus on these and other barriers to leaving an abusive relationship, including a commitment to marriage, lack of financial resources, and concern for their children. In such circumstances, men often worry that their women partners will obtain custody of their children.”*

Source: “A Closer Look at Men Who Sustain Intimate Terrorism by Women.” The U.S. Library of Medicine.

**Myth: The high gender asymmetry in the rates of police-reported or hospital-reported domestic abuse implies that male victimization is a marginal issue.**

Fact: Domestic violence reported to the police is less than 5% of all domestic violence incidents. Police stats on domestic violence are unreliable because protocols police are required to follow are bound by an ideological commitment, which dismiss women as possible perpetrators of violence. [A Handbook for Police Responding to Domestic Violence](#), used by both the Ontario Provincial Police and the Toronto police, encourages police not to treat women as perpetrators and not to remove violent mothers from their children: *“separation from the mother may heighten children’s sense of insecurity and worry following the violent incident.”* Many men who have reported victimization have been treated as the perpetrator and removed from their house.

**Myth: Violence against women is far more important because it’s part of a patriarchal effort to hold women down. As evidence, there is very little violence in same-sex relationships.**

Fact: The view of domestic violence as part of a societal wide program to hold women down is not supported by the data, especially the fact that violence within same-sex relationships consisting either of two men or two women is at least as severe as violence within heterosexual relationships. In fact, data from a UCLA study found lesbian relationships had twice as much violence as heterosexual relationships. Approaches to gender issues must be led by the evidence. This is the only method by which we can formulate solutions that will keep everyone safe and do not ignore any victims.