



## WHAT IT TAKES TO SHOCKPROOF GENDER EQUALITY GAINS

The future remains uncertain. And we can be certain that the reverberations of the past few years - of shaken gender equality gains - will continue to disproportionately impact the most marginalized women, girls, and gender-diverse people in Canada.

Like everyone, we've had a steep learning curve at the Canadian Women's Foundation. We've had to figure out how to bolster gender justice programs struggling in every region to keep up with unpredictable community needs. It means we've had our own challenges "resourcing-up" to meet funding needs. We've had to figure out how to connect with people who care and build partnerships at a time when rallying together has been more challenging than ever.

But there is good news. We're seeing unprecedented public interest in gender justice matters. More people want to make change in their communities and workplaces. More people want to take action to end inequity and injustice.

We've learned to move fast to address urgent needs without losing sight of the big picture. We've experienced how important it is to set up a "big tent" with lots of ways for people to dialogue with each other and get in on the solutions.

These are learnings we will bring into the future, because shocks and shakeups are inevitable and hurt those most vulnerable, most of all. As said by the Honourable Rosemary Brown, one of our Founding Mothers, "Until all of us have made it, none of us have made it."





## YOUR IMPACT AT A CRITICAL TIME

### Emergency Response Grantmaking to End Violence

Gender-based violence such as intimate partner abuse and sexual assault has spiked since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Femicides and police-reported sexual assaults have both risen. With the support of generous donors and partners, we moved more than **\$93 million** in emergency grants to gender-based violence prevention and intervention programs, serving an estimated four million people in every region of the country.

### Shockproofing Our Communities Against Violence Project

Gender-based violence increases in disaster and crisis – but it doesn't have to. We launched the Shockproofing Project to:

1. **Spark culture change** through the Signal for Help Responder campaign, which helps people learn how to better support survivors of abuse (read more on p. 25).
2. **Research** what policies and practices Canada needs to prevent spikes in gender-based violence.
3. **Enable opportunities to share learnings** across gender-based violence organizations.

*“We are able to hire a new intake worker to not only increase our ability to help more women in-house, but also extend our reach out into the rural community to ensure those living out of town have the same access to help and services that the women in the city get. We found a huge gap in services to women and children fleeing domestic violence who live in small rural communities and now we can address that gap.”*

- Grantee Partner, Airdrie P.O.W.E.R., Alberta

*“[We] managed to set up a computer-based centre enabling children with their families to come and access learning materials ... [We] procured sewing machines to provide a safe space for women experiencing gender-based violence so that, in the process of receiving counselling, they can be developing survival skills.”*

- Grantee Partner, Somali Community Outreach Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba

*“The Shockproof Funding has been invaluable to Islands Wellness Society being able to deliver increased direct service to our most vulnerable community members: Indigenous women, women impacted by poverty, and those in the 2SLGBTQI+ community. COVID created so much disconnection and uncertainty that we created a weekly women's drop-in group using these funds. It has been a great success.”*

- Grantee Partner, Islands Wellness Society, Queen Charlotte, British Columbia