

Ontario Supporting Rebuild of North York Women's Shelter

Province Investing in Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence

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NEWS

Ontario is supporting the rebuild of the North York Women's Shelter, to replace the current aging building and allow the agency to provide better service for women and their children who have experienced domestic violence.

Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services, made the announcement in Toronto today with Michael Levitt, Member of Parliament for York Centre, on behalf of Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

North York Women's Shelter has provided assistance to an average of 127 women and children each year over the past three years. The new shelter will provide women and children with multiple services under one roof. The larger facility will provide more private and quiet space, housing, counselling and administrative services as well as legal, mental health and harm reduction supports. In addition, the new shelter will have fully accessible rooms.

Investing in a new North York Women's Shelter is part of the Ontario government's goal of ending violence against women and providing better supports for survivors, and also builds on [It's Never Okay](#), the government's plan to stop sexual violence and harassment.

QUOTES

"For women who have experienced violence, a shelter is often the first step to rebuilding their lives. This investment in North York Women's Shelter is another example that illustrates the Ontario government's commitment to investing in services that help women and their children that have experienced domestic violence."

— Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services

"It's so important that women and children in Ontario live free from the threat or fear of violence in their lives. That's why our government has made a commitment to support women and children who have experienced violence so they can rebuild their lives and heal. Investing in the North York Women's shelter is important because it allows survivors to live in safety surrounded by a well-rounded system of services and supports."

— Indira Naidoo-Harris, Minister of the Status of Women

"It's been a pleasure working with North York Women's Shelter and their committed staff and volunteers. I am very pleased that all levels of government have been able to work together to provide this funding to build a new North York Women's Shelter that will better serve the women and children who need their services."

— Monte Kwinter, Member of Provincial Parliament, York-Centre

"On this important day, we deeply thank the Federal and Provincial governments, our local community of support and the hardworking staff of North York Women's Shelter. In the last 33 years, NYWS has provided a place of safety and support for over 11,000 women and children.

As our understanding of violence against women continues to evolve, we recognize that our response as both an organization and a society must become more complex, evidence-based and holistic. This significant investment means that this critical dream can be reality."
— Mohini Datta-Ray, Executive Director, North York Women's Shelter

QUICK FACTS

- The new North York Women's Shelter will replace the existing building that has been serving women who are survivors of domestic violence and their children since 1984.
- Ontario will provide up to \$3 million in funding for this project. The Federal government also contributed up to \$5.8 million.
- Approximately 10,770 women and 6,920 children were served at Violence Against Women shelters in 2015-16.
- There are more than 2,000 beds available for survivors of domestic violence and their children in communities across the province, adding 254 shelter beds since 2003.
- Sexual assault victimization rates are five times higher for women under the age of 35.
- Ontario is making the largest infrastructure investment in hospitals, schools, public transit, roads and bridges in the province's history. To learn more about what's happening in your community, go to Ontario.ca/BuildON.

LEARN MORE

Ontario's [Violence Against Women](#) programs and services.
[Ontario's Strategy to End Human Trafficking](#) and [Progress Report](#)
[Progress Report on It's Never Okay. An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment](#)
[Walking Together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women](#)

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