



All Our Sisters

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APPROACHES TO WOMEN'S HOMELESSNESS IN CANADIAN COMMUNITIES



Homelessness is gendered and yet there is limited uptake of gender-based approaches to community planning across Canada.

There are many examples in which a gender-blind approach does not work for women or has left women behind, having only "...scratched the surface of women's experiences, casualties, and what is required to end homelessness among women" (McInnes & Drabble, 2020, p. 2).



DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH:



Exploring if/how communities use a gender-based approach to community planning to prevent and end homelessness.



Pan-Canadian, mixed-methods survey of 107 service providers in organizations serving women or girls experiencing homelessness.



68% Central Canada
 14% Atlantic provinces
 12% Prairie provinces
 6% West Coast
 1% Northern Territories

25% Large city (1 million+)
 61% Mid-size city (10,000- 1 million)
 14% Small community (0- 10,000)

97%

felt that women and girls experience homelessness different than men.

95%

agreed that a gender-based approach is important to ending homelessness yet only

52%

felt that this was a current reality.

PARTICIPANT FINDINGS:

“The needs of women within the homeless sector are not being met because policy development continues to be traditionally executed as a one problem fits all model. -Erin”

53%

felt that Black, Indigenous, women of colour, transgender and non-binary people were not included in community planning to end homelessness.

There are both **barriers** (e.g. lack of political will, discrimination) and **facilitators** (e.g. accurate data, women specific supports) to a gender-based approach.