

FEMINIST SCORECARD

2024



During a time of multiple unprecedented crises, what action has the government taken to advance women's rights and gender equality?

- GREEN = SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
- YELLOW = SOME PROGRESS
- RED = LITTLE PROGRESS

CARE ECONOMY

The government continues to build out a national child care system, making it more affordable for families. Significantly more investment in infrastructure and workforce will be needed to meet the needs. Underpaid personal support workers will receive a pay boost thanks for federal support but promised fixes to long-term care homes have not materialized.

POVERTY

While low-income Canadians struggle with the cost of living, federal action on dental coverage, a one-time "grocery rebate" and a national school food program will help in relieving some of the economic pressure. Building more affordable housing and implementing the new disability benefit will be key in further supporting those living in poverty.

REPRESENTATION AND LEADERSHIP

New federal funding for feminist and gender justice organizations in Canada will strengthen the women's rights movement. The government is standing up to anti-gender and anti-rights movements in Canada and internationally. Better and more consistent gender-based analysis is needed across government for policies and programs to meet the needs of Canadians in all their diversity.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights remains a major priority for the government. Access to contraception was a centerpiece of the new Pharmacare Act. Investing hundreds of millions of dollars in SRH programming in Canada and internationally is improving access for women and gender diverse people. The government should scale up its federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan.

WOMEN'S WORK AND LABOUR RIGHTS

Canada's labour landscape saw significant shifts in the past year with impactful strikes and rising worker advocacy amid the soaring cost of living. New anti-scab legislation was a positive step. Further action is needed to modernize employment equity legislation, combat workplace violence and enact mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation for Canadian companies operating abroad.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Progress on introducing an emissions cap on the country's oil and gas sector and legislation on just transition were offset by the government's continued financial support to the fossil fuel industry. Billions of dollars in tax breaks for carbon capture technology will benefit big polluters in male-dominated industries, at the expense of feminist climate solutions.

CONFLICT AND CRISIS

Canada's inconsistent and uneven responses to humanitarian crisis and conflict abroad were alarming. Calls for a ceasefire in Gaza by millions of Canadians fell on deaf ears for months, while arms exports to Israel continued and may have been used in violation of international humanitarian law. The government should stop the apparent double standards and instead advance its humanitarian goals and its women, peace and security agenda.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The government signed bilateral agreements with provinces and territories to roll out the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, with major funding now available to provincial and local organizations. Federal action on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ People National Action Plan continues to be stalled and difficult to track.

TAX

Tax reforms over the past year focused on combatting financial secrecy, bringing in a digital services tax on multinational tech companies and modernizing the alternative minimum tax paid by wealthy individuals. However, the government failed to bring in a wealth tax or windfall profits taxes to tackle wealth inequality head on.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Canada's strong track record of supporting gender equality internationally took a hit this year as the government reduced its international assistance envelope, despite huge global funding shortfalls for gender equality. The government needs to adequately resource its Feminist International Assistance Policy and improve delivery of foreign aid in line with the Auditor General's recommendations.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Indigenous women's organizations decried the lack of progress over the past year. Little progress was made on implementing calls to action on truth and reconciliation, tackling the over-incarceration of Indigenous women, ending drinking water advisories on reserve or ending gender-based violence. Federal support to search a Winnipeg-area landfill for the missing bodies of two First Nations women, however, was applauded by families and supporters.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS

Accessing protection in Canada has become increasingly difficult due to challenges in the immigration system. Although the resettlement process for LGBTQ refugees has been streamlined, other commitments fall short of ensuring equitable refugee response and addressing policy gaps, including the Safe Third Country Agreement and Temporary Foreign Worker Programs. The government should repeal the STCA, regularize status of migrant workers and advance gender inclusive asylum policies.