



Meeting Summary

Online CoP meeting

Knowledge Hub

Date: December 10, 2025

Time: 13:00 to 14:30 PM

**Focus: Toward a collective statement on sustainable funding for family violence prevention**

The CoP meeting focused on the development of a collective statement advocating sustainable, long-term federal funding for family violence prevention programs.

Discussions were about all the evidence and lessons emerging from projects funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), with attention to equity, infrastructure, and root causes of violence.

Themes from the discussion :

1. Sustainable and Long-Term Funding

Participants emphasized that:

- Evidence from PHAC-funded projects is strong, well-documented, and demonstrates effectiveness.
- Short-term project funding, without pathways to sustainability, leads to:
  - Loss of human, social, and community capital
  - Loss of trust within communities
  - Loss of services and accumulated knowledge

A proposal was discussed whereby the federal government deliberately selects a small number of proven programs (or key components of programs) for long-term investment.

## 2. Innovation vs. Long-Term Funding: Debunking Myths

Participants challenged common assumptions, noting that:

- Long-term funding is not incompatible with innovation, flexibility, or adaptation.
- Sustainable funding can strengthen innovation by allowing programs to:
  - Build trust over time
  - Adapt to emerging complexities
  - Retain skilled staff and institutional memory

Several members emphasized the importance of moving away from siloed, project-by-project funding toward a violence prevention infrastructure.

## 3. Equity and Representation

Strong emphasis was placed on:

- Mandatory (not optional) funding for equity-deserving and under-represented communities, including racialized and immigrant communities.
- Avoiding the reproduction of dominant narratives and ensuring marginalized voices are centered.
- Using intersectional and GBA+ approaches as core funding criteria, not add-ons.

## 4. Role of Funders

Participants highlighted PHAC's positive role, noting:

- The value of funder engagement beyond financial investment (e.g., presence, guidance, relationship-building).
- The need for funding structures that include built-in sustainability mechanisms, independent of political cycles.
- A suggestion that PHAC establish a dedicated sustainability unit to support projects and develop long-term funding models.

## 5. Root Causes vs. Responses

Several participants emphasized that:

- Current systems often focus on responses rather than root causes of violence.
- National action plans risk becoming symbolic without adequate resources for implementation.
- Violence against women remains epidemic (a woman or girl is killed approximately every 1.9 days in Canada), indicating that current approaches are insufficient.
- Governments have a critical role in addressing root causes and building long-term prevention infrastructure.