



FACTSHEET

Highlights: Gender Justice for All

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During the first half of 2015, the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women organized exploratory discussion groups in three Canadian cities about what women think are important issues related to “Gender Justice for All” and how various levels of government and allies of women can contribute to this objective.

Seven themes were of high importance: each theme was mentioned by at least one quarter of the women.

Violence Against Women “Having to watch their backs” as women, negative stereotypes of women, violence against women as a means of controlling women and blaming the victim were discussed. Bystander intervention and increased education were recommended.

Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women

The legacy of residential school abuse, high-risk situations, such as hitchhiking (in places where transportation is inadequate or non-existent) and poverty were mentioned. Recommendations included increased education, more adequate public transportation, community cooperation and coordination among provincial governments.

Health Care Inadequate mental health care, the gender bias in drug testing, the absence of pharmacare and other gaps in health care and services, especially for those with disabilities and addictions, were mentioned.

Education The cost of post-secondary studies, the recommendation that curricula include education on gender equality, violence against women and discrimination against women and Aboriginals, the importance of encouraging individuals with low income to attend post-secondary education and **employment** were discussed, specifically the availability of jobs following post-secondary studies. Other employment issues, including employment without discrimination, including age discrimination, training in non-traditional fields for women, decent working conditions and equity in employment and pay, were also mentioned.

Affordable Child Care Affordable, good quality and flexible child care was important, especially for employed mothers. The need for better pay for child care workers was also important.

Poverty Affordable housing, schooling, transportation and day care, the need to increase the minimum wage, poverty among both seniors and those under eighteen years, and that poverty led some women to remain in undesirable situations in order to survive were all topics that were discussed.

Women in Power The absence of women in government and other decision-making positions was criticized, and measures for correcting this were suggested, including creating opportunities for young women to

shadow leaders and restoring federal government support for organizations that represent women's issues, such as the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

This Fact Sheet provides highlights from CRIAW's exploratory study. A report describing the results in more detail will be available shortly.

Methodology: A total of 15 **themes**, selected through initial team planning meetings, were presented in alphabetical order to participants, together with the category 'other', and the women were asked to list up to 10 themes they considered important. Many provided an 'other' theme which had not been listed. The women discussed a selection of the themes in groups and also provided their anonymous written opinions.

Sample: Our objective was to learn the views of diverse women, but in this **exploratory study**, most of the 41 women who participated identified as Caucasian, able-bodied, urban and over the age of 24. About half were from the Prairies and half from Ontario, one third had a paid job and one third of told us their household included at least one child. Equal proportions reported having below average, average and above average income.)

Thanks to all the participants and focus group facilitators from Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Ottawa. This Fact Sheet was made available to you today thanks to the generous crowdsourced donations from the *Gender Justice for All* campaign. We wish to acknowledge the dedication of a large number of unpaid volunteers who have devoted their time and energy in order to work on and contribute to this project at every stage.

CRIAW-ICREF is a non-profit organization providing tools to facilitate organizations taking action to advance social justice and equality for all women. We are working to create a world in which individuals of all genders, races, cultures, languages, incomes, abilities, sexualities, religions, identities, ages, and experiences fully participate in, and contribute to, a just, violence-free, balanced and joyful society that respects the human dignity of all. **And we've been doing so for almost 40 years.**

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