

# Safe Housing Breaks the Cycle of Intimate Partner Violence

## The intimate partner violence landscape:

### CRISIS SHELTER

**100,000**

Victims of domestic violence in Canada each year.<sup>1</sup>

Since the **COVID-19 pandemic began**, domestic violence rates have increased across Canada between

**20% - 62%**

**The bottleneck:** Safe, reliable housing for single-mothers to escape intimate partner violence (IPV) needs funding to help get these families back on track.

**2-3 weeks**

#### The early-on options:

##### Stay or Return

Extremely unsafe.

Often return to shelter.

##### Insecure Housing

Unsafe.

Need to rely on friends/family.

Often return to shelters.

##### Homelessness

Extremely unsafe.

**50% of homeless women and children became homeless trying to escape violence.**<sup>3</sup>

##### Murder

Not acceptable.

**Every six days, a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner.**

#### Paths back to homelessness:

More than

**6,000**

Women and children in Canada sleep in shelters each night.

Yet,

**300**

Women and kids in Canada are turned away from shelters each night due to lack of capacity.<sup>5</sup>

Saskatchewan has the highest rate of intimate partner violence among Canadian provinces - **more than double the national average.**<sup>6</sup>

### 2<sup>ND</sup> STAGE HOUSING

#### YWCA

A Crisis Shelter

##### Example of YWCA

**Duration:** Short-term (up to 2-3 weeks)

**Services:** Provide 24/7 crisis services offering emergency shelter and support.

**Funding:** Funded through Saskatchewan's Ministry of Justice.

**Backlog:** Crisis shelters turn away 3,000 women and kids in Regina each year.<sup>7</sup>

#### SOFIA House

Second Stage Housing

##### Example of YWCA

**Duration:** Mid-term (up to 2 years)

**Services:** Heavily secured building protected with round-the-clock surveillance and staff. On-premises programs and counseling services.

**Funding:** Since Saskatchewan's government doesn't provide funding to second stage shelters, all operations are funded through grants and donations from the public.

**Backlog:** In 2021 alone, demand for services has increased by 52%. All units are full, and approximately 20 families waitlisted at any given time.

**2 Years**

### SOFIA X AVANA

## Supportive Housing (YWCA/Avana)

#### Empowerment Fund

##### Example of Avana

**Duration:** Mid-term (approx. 1 year)

**Services:** An Empowerment Outreach Coordinator manages referrals, intakes, and assessments to serve as the case manager for incoming families.

Through its Empowerment Fund, Avana provides additional, limited-term rent relief to help qualifying single-mothers with the cost of affordable housing units.

**Funding:** Avana privately funds the Empowerment Outreach Coordinator's salary, who the YWCA supervises in Regina.

Additional rent relief support for single mothers is funded privately, on a case-by-case basis, by Avana.

#### Affordable Housing

##### Example of Avana

**Duration:** Long-term (+1 year)

**Services:** Subsidized rent for lower-income residents

**Funding:** Through Canada's National Housing Strategy, supported by the City of Regina, Avana provides ### units of affordable housing.

In addition to this, Avana privately funds ### more units due to the constant demand for safe housing.

**+1 Years**

### GOING FOWARD

## Prevention

Access to safe, reliable housing early on in the domestic abuse cycle is the single, most critical piece that helps prevent recidivism, homelessness, and even death.

Second stage shelters (like SOFIA House) and supportive housing solutions (like those offered by Avana) alleviate backlog at the crisis-shelter stage, allowing women and children to stabilize faster and more securely.

Crisis shelters are full. Second-stage shelters are consistently waitlisted.

Meanwhile, single mothers face unacceptable choices – return to their abuser

to put a roof over their heads, or face homelessness, instability, or even death because they can't get into the shelter system.

**\$7.4 billion – the cost of domestic violence on Canadian taxpayers.**<sup>8</sup>

**+2 Years**

[1] <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/canada-faces-a-domestic-violence-crisis-cbc-examines-the-problem-1.5477392>  
 [2] Sullana, A. & Ravanera, C. (2020, July 28). A Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for Canada: Making the Economy Work for Everyone. The Institute for Gender and the Economy (GATE) and YWCA Canada. Retrieved from: [www.feministrecovery.ca](http://www.feministrecovery.ca)

[3] <https://vawnet.org/material/no-safe-place-sexual-assault-lives-homeless-women>

[4] <https://canadianwomen.org/the-facts/gender-based-violence/>

[5] <https://canadianwomen.org/the-facts/gender-based-violence/>  
 [6] <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00018/tbl/tbl02-7-eng.htm>  
 [7] Melissa Coomber-Bendtsen, CEO of YWCA Regina, November 3, 2019

[8] [https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/tv-vf/rr12\\_7/rr12\\_7.pdf](https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/tv-vf/rr12_7/rr12_7.pdf)