



CANADIAN CENTER
FOR WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT

CENTRE CANADIEN
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DES FEMMES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PILOT PROJECT PROVIDES A TRAUMA-INFORMED FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ABUSE

With the support of the TD Ready Commitment Group, on November 1, 2023, CCFWE is launching a new financial literacy training program for survivors of domestic economic abuse who reside in Ottawa.

OTTAWA, Monday October 23, 2023.

The Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) is thrilled to announce the launch of a groundbreaking initiative, funded by the TD Ready Commitment Group called My Money, My Freedom: Domestic Economic Abuse and Financial Literacy Program. The financial literacy program is designed for survivors of domestic economic abuse who have immigrant and refugee experience and who identify as Black, Indigenous or a Person of Colour. Through an intersectional and trauma-informed lens, the program addresses the common financial challenges survivors face on their way to recovery and financial independence.

Survivors of domestic economic violence often live with a multi-layered trauma and deal with negative post-separation effects of economic abuse such as coerced debt, damaged credit score, the inability to apply for mortgage and inaccessible housing. The financial literacy program educates survivors through a series of six tailored workshops, providing survivors with essential skills and knowledge on how to manage their finances with confidence, create a budget, apply for benefits and regain control over their lives.

The project builds on CCFWE's tireless advocacy to protect survivors from the impacts of coerced debt. CCFWE's Executive Director, Meseret Haileyesus, was a key advocate for the passing of *Bill 41: An Act to amend the Consumer Reporting Act and the Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking Act, 2017 with respect to certain debts incurred in relation to human trafficking*. The Bill set a policy precedent with the addition of provisions to prohibit the collection of coerced debts and to prohibit persons/entities from taking them into consideration when determining whether to provide credit services or products to the debtor.

What is Domestic Economic Abuse?

Domestic Economic abuse is a common type of domestic violence. It occurs when a partner interferes with employment, controls access to finances, or generates financial costs without consent, or refuses to provide spousal or child support payments. Women from marginalized groups, including newcomers, refugees, racialized, and Indigenous women, are particularly vulnerable to economic abuse due to systemic factors. It has profound and long-lasting effects



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on victims, impeding their ability to secure stable and safe accommodations, achieve economic security, and live free from violence.

About CCFWE:

The Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment (CCFWE) is Canada's only national organization dedicated to combating Economic Abuse within the context of Family and Intimate Partner Violence. Through education, economic empowerment, research and system change, CCFWE collaborates with other like-minded organizations and individuals, including financial advocates and survivors to address economic abuse and empower survivors to regain control of their finances and rebuild their lives. CCFWE envisions a world where domestic violence survivors can access financial education and resources for their safety and financial independence, guided by lived experience and evidence-based practice.

For project inquiries, please contact:

Andrea Prajerova

andrea.prajerova@ccfwe.org

For Media Inquiries, please contact:

Patrick Mwesigye King

Marketing and Communications Officer

The Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment

patrick.mwesigye@ccfwe.org