

INCREASED FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S SHELTERS IN LONDON

McGuinty Government Helping Vulnerable Women Rebuild Their Lives

NEWS

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Women and their children in London will now have more help to escape violence in their homes with an investment of more than \$718,000 for agencies, shelters and second stage housing providers in the area

This funding is part of a province-wide \$18.8 million investment that will increase the base budgets of women's agencies by five per cent and will also:

- Add 83 beds to existing shelters;
- Increase funding for the operation of shelter beds; and
- Give \$1.5 million to second-stage housing providers.

These agencies help women rebuild their lives, gain economic independence, and provide safety for their children.

QUOTES

"The sad reality is that no group of women – young, old, immigrants or Canadian-born – is free from acts of domestic violence," said Community and Social Services Minister Madeleine Meilleur. "We're committed to providing options to help women and children who aren't safe in their own homes."

"This announcement absolutely relates to our poverty reduction strategy," said Minister Responsible for Women's Issues Deb Matthews. "We know that women who have suffered abuse are at much higher risk of poverty than other women. And this announcement increases our ability to assist this very vulnerable group of women and their children."

"Second stage housing is that first critical step for women as they move from shelters back into the community," said Kate Wiggins, executive director of Women's Community House in London. "They need to feel supported and safe as they work to become financially and emotionally independent."

QUICK FACTS

- 14,000 women use shelters every year.
- Women stay in shelters an average of 21 days.
- Statistics Canada estimates that only 28 per cent of victims of spousal violence report incidents to the police.
- The [Neighbours, Friends and Families](#) public education campaign provides information to help people recognize the signs of abuse and know what to do and how to respond.
- The Ministry of Community and Social Services provides \$136 million annually to programs that help reduce domestic violence, a 42 per cent increase since 2004.

LEARN MORE

Learn more about the government's [Domestic Violence Action Plan](#).

View an [interview](#) with Minister of Community and Social Services Madeleine Meilleur, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues Deb Matthews and the Executive Director of Women's Community House, Kate Wiggins.

To locate a shelter near you, visit [Shelternet](#), or contact the [Assaulted Women's Help Line](#) at 416-863-0511 in the Greater Toronto Area, or toll-free anywhere in Ontario at 1-866-863-0511. TTY service is available at 1-866-863-7868.

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