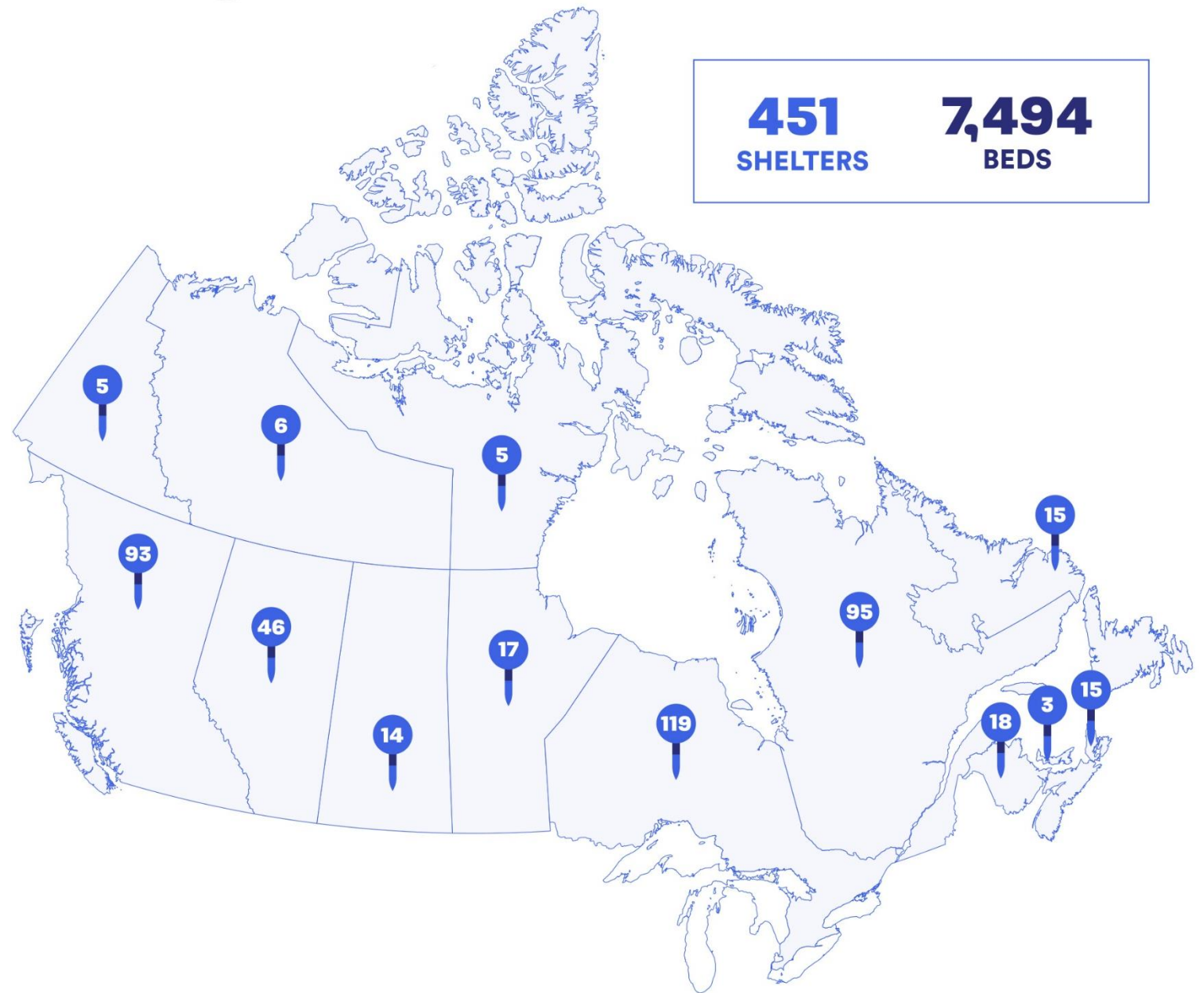


Violence Against Women's (VAW) Shelters in Canada

Newfoundland & Labrador	15 (176)
Nova Scotia	15 (192)
New Brunswick	18 (298)
Prince Edward Island	3 (45)
Québec	95 (1360)
Ontario	119 (2466)
Manitoba	17 (364)
Saskatchewan	14 (284)
Alberta	46 (1223)
British Columbia	93 (953)
Yukon	5 (49)
Northwest Territories	6 (44)
Nunavut	5 (41)



Gender-Based Violence and Homelessness

Yearly, close to 70,000 women are admitted to VAW shelters in Canada.

On a single day, close to 700 women and 250 children are turned away from VAW shelters across Canada.

82% of times people are turned away from shelters because they are full – another reason for being turned away is being barred from the shelter, usually because of a violent or unsafe situation.

VAW Shelters - What's Next

The top challenge facing women when they leave abusive situations is lack of affordable and appropriate housing.



Snapshot: April 18, 2018, it was found that amongst women who left the shelter:

- 21% said they were returning to a residence where their abuser continued to live
- 36% did not know where they were going upon departure (or the facility did not know)
- 18% reported they would be living with friends or relatives
- 11% were entering another VAW shelter

Cycles of Violence & Housing Precarity

When staying in shelters:

- 37.4% of young homeless women had experienced a sexual assault, compared to 8.2% of young homeless men
- 41.3% of trans and gender non-binary homeless youth had experienced sexual assault
- 35.6% of LGBTQ2S+ homeless youth had experienced a sexual assault, compared to 14.8% of straight homeless youth



Perpetuating Homelessness



It is clear that a lack of affordable housing and supports drives women into emergency systems that are insufficient and do not meet their needs. Further, if we continue to underfund homelessness and VAW shelters across Canada - and these critical services operate at or over capacity - we threaten the lives of women, girls, and gender diverse peoples by trapping them in homelessness.

Multiple and Compounding Public Systems Failures

- Contradictory policies between Social Assistance, Child Protection and Social Housing make it very difficult for women to qualify for income or housing supports.
- These practices and policies can create the conditions for some women to lose their housing, remain stuck on the streets, lose custody of their children or stay in situations of abuse.



Intergenerational Homelessness



Mothers' experiences of housing instability and violence create the conditions for intergenerational homelessness. Addressing the housing needs of women – particularly those of mothers and their children – is critical to solving chronic and intergenerational homelessness.

Intergenerational Homelessness

Addressing mothers' housing issues is key to solving adult homelessness, chronic homelessness, and intergenerational homelessness. If we choose to address the unique housing challenges many women face – including those that are intertwined with abuse and violence – we may be able to prevent future generations from experiencing homelessness and violence.



The Housing Crisis in Canada is Gendered



Women, girls, and gender diverse peoples across Canada disproportionately bear the burden of poverty, core housing need, interpersonal violence, and childcare responsibilities. These burdens are greatest for those experiencing multiple forms of marginalization.

Safe Affordable, and Permanent Housing is the Solution

- Safe, affordable, and permanent housing is the only long-term solution to homelessness for women, girls, and gender diverse peoples.
- A gendered, intersectional lens that takes into account women's varied experiences and identities such as age, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status is critical for guiding expansions to affordable housing.



Safe Affordable, and Permanent Housing is the Solution



A fully implemented right to housing will be critical for uncovering and resolving these systemic barriers.

Implementing such a right not only life-saving and life-affirming for women and gender diverse peoples, but is central to tackling broader issues of chronic homelessness and intergenerational poverty, homelessness, and violence.

Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network



On June 14, 2022 – submitted two Human Rights Claims to the Federal Housing Advocate. The claims spotlight violations of the right to housing experienced by marginalized women and gender-diverse people across the country, calling for immediate action.

On May 11, 2023, the Federal Housing Advocate asked the National Housing Council to establish a review panel on a systemic housing issue, pursuant to Section 13.1 (2) of the *National Housing Strategy Act*.

On March 7, 2024, the Council passed a motion to proceed with the review panel.

National Housing Council
announces Review Panel
on women &
gender-diverse
homelessness



Our History in Moncton



- Founded in **1920**, we are one of the oldest charitable organisations in Moncton.
- In **2016** we opened the YW Jean E.S. Irving Centre for Women and Children following a successful capital campaign that raised \$2.5 million from the Greater Moncton community.

