



For Immediate Release: Federal Funding Cuts a Frontline Fiasco - New WAGE Canada budget will decimate supports for Sexual Violence Survivors

August 5, 2025 (Regina, SK) – Survivors of sexual violence in Saskatchewan can anticipate less support, advocacy, and governmental backing due to new federal funding cuts.

Two weeks ago, the Department for Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada's budget was gutted by 80 per cent. WAGE Canada provides critical funding to organizations doing Gender Equality work, such as shelters, victim services, and sexual violence prevention and survivor support services.

Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS) – a provincial non-profit organization that works collectively with front-line agencies, community partners, and governments that provide support and advocacy for those affected by sexual violence in Saskatchewan – is one such organization.

"For over eight years, we have been deeply grateful for WAGE's continued investment in our work. Their support has been instrumental in expanding our organizational capacity and increasing awareness of sexual violence prevention across Saskatchewan," says Kerrie Isaac, Executive Director of Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan. "This partnership has allowed us to build stronger networks, amplify the voices of survivors, and advance meaningful change in communities throughout the province."

WAGE Canada has provided the funding for several SASS initiatives, including two comprehensive research projects on the sexual violence landscape in Saskatchewan, the creation of the Sexual Violence in Saskatchewan Action Plan, and yearly consultations with communities across the province about how sexual violence is manifesting in their unique contexts.

"Through WAGE's support, we have been able to implement the Victim Advocate Case Review, successfully advocate for the expansion of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program, and ensure that frontline voices are being heard by Saskatchewan's policy makers," states Isaac.

SASS' frontline member agencies are also beneficiaries of WAGE Canada funding. WAGE pushed forward the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, a \$20.3 million investment into many Saskatchewan shelters, human trafficking intervention organizations, and sexual violence support services.

"With the WAGE Canada budget cuts, sexual violence survivors can expect reduced support services, increased barriers to being heard by our systems, and will continue to live in fear of sexual violence," Isaac continues. "Gender equality cannot be an afterthought. It requires dedicated leadership, accountability, and sustained investment."

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