



**Brief Analysis of Emphasis on
Evidence-based Policy and/or Decision Making:
The Roadmap versus The Plan**

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Out of curiosity, I did a cursory comparative analysis between what was described in the [Roadmap for the National Action Plan](#) in terms of “evidence-based” policy and/or decision making and what was described in the federal government’s [National Action Plan website](#).

I simply searched both sources for mentions of the phrases “evidence-based” in relation to policy development and/or decision making, and included the context and page number where applicable.

Below are the results in table form.

**Note - further comparative analysis could be done with searches for the key words: “accountability” and “transparency”.

Analysis of emphasis on evidence-based policy and/or decision making:
[National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence](#)

Total mentions of “evidence-based” = 6

Mention	Context	Page #
<p>Implementing and monitoring this plan requires collaboration within and across governments and Indigenous partners; and engagement with victims, survivors and their families, direct service providers, experts, and researchers. Federal, provincial, and territorial efforts are complemented by local/community approaches and responses. Knowledge mobilization of surveillance data, research findings, and frontline expertise will support evidence-based policy and program development.</p>	<p>The foundation</p>	
<p>Actions could include: [D]eveloping and/or supporting existing and/or innovative evidence-based, multi-sectoral, programs, services and service delivery models</p>	<p>Opportunities for action: Increase sustainable operational/core funding for GBV services.</p>	
<p>Actions could include: [D]eveloping and implementing strength-based Indigenous-led initiatives, programs, services, and evidence-based research that addresses the root causes of GBV, and works towards eliminating social, economic, cultural, and political marginalization of Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people</p>	<p>Opportunities for transformational change: Provide adequate, accessible, equitable and sustainable funding directly to Indigenous-led organizations, including grassroots organizations, for existing and new Indigenous-led GBV initiatives, programs and services focused on prevention and early intervention.</p>	
<p>Evidence takes many forms including victim/survivor expertise, quantitative and qualitative research, promising practices and traditional Indigenous knowledge. Federal, provincial, and territorial governments and the GBV sector rely on data and research to develop</p>	<p>What remains to be done: Data, research and knowledge mobilization</p>	

<p>evidence-based policies and programs to address GBV. Qualitative and quantitative data are needed to provide insights for policies, programs, and funding initiatives.</p> <p>However, current data systems do not always allow for an intersectional analysis, and there is a need for better capacity to develop timely, disaggregated, well governed, and populations-based data.</p> <p>A multi-phased and multi-pronged approach to knowledge mobilization is needed to support the sharing of research and evidence-based programming, policy, and service delivery.</p>		
<p>Promote evidence-based, innovative and responsive policy and programs</p>	<p>The high-level framework for joint action:</p> <p>Guiding principles</p>	

Analysis of emphasis on evidence-based policy and/or decision making:
[A Report to Guide the Implementation of a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Gender-Based Violence](#)

Total mentions of “evidence-based” = 25

Mention	Context	Page #
As we have said in our public responses to the budget, the future of the NAP will take billions, not millions. Likewise, while we applaud Budget 2021 for making an overall \$400 million investment on data—primarily to Statistics Canada, to address various data gaps, especially around gender, racism, and unequal power relations, to improve on evidence-based decision making —it is simply not enough. Investment towards better data over the next five years is only the first step. What is required, as voiced by the WGs, is better monitoring and accountability; data that goes beyond disaggregated numbers, applies an intersectional lens, and is collected in ways that are inclusive, honour lived realities, and go beyond the traditional, narrow, number-driven methodologies; that is, not just surveys, not just statistical analysis, and not just larger sampling.	Executive Summary	15
Proposed outcome: Improved availability, access, and use of data on VAW/GBV across all levels of government and communities for evidence-based policy making and programming .	Prevention Rationale	38
In regard to evaluation and monitoring of prevention initiatives, we call upon the FPT governments to instruct their departments and agencies to conduct evidence-based evaluations to ensure that funding programs are working to identify and meaningfully serve the needs of persons experiencing VAW/GBV, frontline services, community organizations, and their employees in order to address VAW/GBV.	Prevention Rationale: Additional Recommendations	59

<p>There also need to be clear targets and measurable outcomes for the NAP that ensure that relevant measurement and evaluation is meaningful to those groups it is measuring, and allows for understanding of what works, for whom, and in what contexts.</p> <p>Finally, it is important that evaluation is holistic in terms of outcomes and methods, and emphasizes depth over breadth, to ensure that strategies are meaningfully meeting the needs of target communities.</p>		
<p>[R]estore transparent firearms data collection and analysis of use of firearms in crime, death, and injury as well as evidence-based policies, and education about the public health and safety risks of firearms</p>	<p>Pilar: Promotion of Responsive Legal and Justice Systems Rationale</p>	<p>87</p>
<p>This cross-cutting theme also entails crediting and advancing successful, informal responses to addressing and preventing VAW/GBV. Survivors and their families have a right to safety, healing, and justice. As such, “supporting survivors” means not only creating accessible individual services, but also ensuring that survivors have their health, emotional, financial, and spiritual needs met in the aftermath of violence.</p> <p>Formal VAW/GBV services need to be trauma and violence-informed, as well as intentionally anti-racist and anti-oppressive. Services and systems response must be evidence-based while also recognizing and integrating multiple ways of knowing. Listening to the voices of survivors and their families, and acting on their recommendations, lays the groundwork for a deep intersectional response to harms experienced.</p>	<p>Call to Action: Expert Engagement to Address and Prevent VAW/GBV:</p> <p>Grassroots as a central part of the response</p>	<p>122</p>
<p>In other countries, the mechanism that monitors the NAP is independent of the plan’s lead implementation mechanism. This independence clearly strengthens perceptions of validity of results, and can support implementing states’ claims to accountability, evidence-based practice, and continuous improvement...</p>	<p>Providing for data and monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL)</p>	<p>132</p>

<p>Creating an independent civilian oversight body to monitor, evaluate, hold the state to account on the implementation of the NAP and generate knowledge for informed and evidence-based policy making.</p>	<p>Providing for data and monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL)</p>	<p>133 -134</p>
<p>...Privatization of infrastructure and public services means higher costs from higher long-term financing costs for building infrastructure, more risk, the need for admin and legal oversight, less transparency and accountability.</p> <p>Privatization creates increased user fees and tolls, shifting control of public facilities to unaccountable, private, for-profit corporations. It also diverts public funds from core services needed by people to corporate profits.</p> <p>Keeping infrastructure and services public is a wise investment of public funds that provides greater local control, flexibility and efficiency in operations, lower costs, accessibility, and quality services for members of the public.</p> <p>The realities and practicalities of Canadian federalism pose considerable barriers to the objective of the NAP to ensure consistency in access to any social infrastructure across the country.</p> <p>Efforts to ensure a Canada-wide approach to many systems must take into account jurisdiction as well as the specific place of Quebec in the federation, as well as relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples and the need for Indigenous-led solutions. While these dynamics are complicated, we do not believe they should be a barrier to progress, particularly if the Federal government shows leadership within its own jurisdiction, and provides the incentive of long-term, sufficient funding to provinces and territories....</p> <p>...we see it as essential to bring an intersectional lens to our recommendations...</p> <p>...Our recommendations are intended to reflect the reality we see: that survivors of GBV, whatever their privilege or lack thereof, are seldom served well by existing justice and legal systems, and that those with less privilege are often actively harmed by their interactions with those systems. It</p>	<p>Question posed to working group members:</p> <p>What are the wider, evidence-based, social, political, and/or situational contexts that are crucial to this pillar and your recommendations?</p>	<p>164 - 165;</p> <p>184 -185</p>

<p>was crucial that our recommendations reflect the notion that lifting those who are most vulnerable will lift us all...</p>		
<p>Our list of recommendations contains a variety of strategies and approaches for addressing GBV/VAW in Canada that are creative, evidence-based, impactful, and recognize gendered and intersectional experiences of violence. Our discussions over the past month and a half have demonstrated that there can be no “one size fits all” approach to preventing violence. Our list contains recommendations that are concrete with clear and singular outcomes...</p> <p>...many of our recommendations include creative approaches to addressing GBV/VAW while remaining evidence-based...</p>	<p>Response to question posed to working group members:</p> <p>“...share your rationale for the top recommendations you want us to highlight and their sequencing over the 10-year period.”</p>	<p>180 - 182</p>
<p>GBV services and the systems’ response must be evidence-based while also recognizing and integrating multiple ways of knowing. Listening to the voices of survivors and their families and acting on their recommendations lays the groundwork for a deep intersectional response to harms experienced.</p>	<p>Response to question posed to working group members:</p> <p>“...share your rationale for the top recommendations you want us to highlight and their sequencing over the 10-year period.”</p>	<p>194</p>
<p>Harm reduction is evidence-based, gives survivors options, and does not force or coerce them to engage in any actions with which they are not comfortable, such as interacting with the legal system or ceasing substance use. This principle empowers survivors to regain control and help alleviate and prevent future harms.</p>	<p>Support for Survivors and Their Families: Recommendations:</p> <p>Harm Reduction Philosophy.</p>	<p>196</p>
<p>Learning is an iterative, interactive, and ongoing process and takes place throughout the life of an undertaking. It promotes evidence-based decision making, improves effectiveness, and fosters knowledge generation.</p> <p>Holding government accountable is one of the cornerstones of NAP programs in democratic societies (Holvoets & Rombouts, 2008). An adequate MEAL system must provide the necessary elements to check that the</p>	<p>Why is MEAL crucial for Canada’s 10-year National Action Plan?</p>	<p>206</p>

<p>commitments are implemented.</p> <p>However, a well-functioning MEAL system can uphold the principles of results-orientation, iterative learning, evidence-based policy making, and accountability. For learning to be effective—that is, to advance improved policy making and feed into broader changes to social norms—MEAL can be perceived as “uncomfortable” because it highlights both negative and positive experiences.</p>		
<p>Feminist MEAL seeks to generate knowledge that honours community wisdom and experiential knowledge, and evidence-based decision making that reflects the priorities of affected communities. It is about acknowledging that there are “many ways of knowing,” and some of these are more privileged than others. As such, feminist MEAL is rooted in intersectionality.</p> <p>[F]eminist MEAL fosters a learning orientation to evaluative exercises and promote evidence-based decision making.</p>	<p>Principles of intersectional feminist MEAL</p>	<p>211</p>
<p>[H]onour evidence-based decision making that is reflective of priorities of the affected Communities.</p> <p>Canada has a patchwork of initiatives regarding collecting, synthesizing, and actioning VAW/GBV-related information, with some areas (jurisdictions, groups, types of GBV) better covered than others.</p> <p>An independent national organization would map these and promote ways to bridge gaps. For example, Mexico’s National Action Plan for Preventing, Addressing, and Eradicating Violence against Women (2007–2012) calls for creating an independent coordination mechanism for monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Other states invest the independent body with additional powers to conduct data collection and undertake research, thereby providing de facto coordination of the evidence-based and evidence-building facets of the plan’s implementation.</p> <p>The main advantage of having an independent</p>	<p>Recommendations ...highlighted in both the interim and final reports in greater detail, and other key recommendations based on international best practices/lessons learned.</p>	<p>214</p>

<p>organization is to centralize research, data, and evaluation expertise, ensuring a relatively seamless monitoring process. It also can strengthen the shared understanding of VAW/GBV and promote coherent programming across sectors and different forms of practice.</p>		
<p>Too long to cite - see page 360 of Roadmap</p>	<p>Framework for evidence-based recommendations for the National Action Plan (NAP) Working Groups (WG)</p>	<p>360</p>