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## Federal Housing Strategy Based on Gender-Analysis Targets 25 Percent of Funds to Women

Montreal, November 22, 2017—The YWCA and its Foundation are thrilled by the news of Canada's housing strategy, which promises to invest at least 25 percent of its funding toward projects for women, girls, and their families. When it comes to access to housing and homelessness, realities vary widely between the sexes. That is why it is so important that the government develop its strategy with a gender-based analysis.

In fact, women are more liable to receive lower incomes, live longer, be single parents, or lose their homes as a result of domestic or family violence. Racialized, handicapped, and indigenous women, for their part, face many additional hurdles.

The budget earmarked to support women, girls, and their families will help adequately meet their needs and provide them with affordable, safe, and long-term housing solutions. Affordable, safe housing is a fundamental right and a key factor in preventing violence, ending homelessness, and promoting the social inclusion of vulnerable women.

“Every day, we are struck by the urgency for safe housing for women and girls. We hope that this money will benefit not only the YWCA but also other organizations providing housing for women, by allowing us to expand housing services and create tailored solutions for women, girls, and families living in Montreal,” says new YWCA CEO, Mélanie Thivierge. “Moreover, we want to develop a strong relationship with the City of Montreal in this matter, as the issue is also a priority for the new mayoress,” she adds.

Using a gender-based analysis to develop national policies is a giant step forward capable of changing the system that addresses women's housing. YWCA Montreal hopes that the same approach will now be applied to all program, laws, and strategies directly touching citizens. It is essential for building an equal, inclusive and non-violent society.

*Since 1875, through its innovative, tailored programs, the YWCA has brought about positive, long-term changes in the fight to end social and gender inequality as well as violence against women and girls. The YWCA is working to build a better future for women and girls in a just society where they have the power and opportunity to realize their full potential.*

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