

Connectivity and Gender-Based Violence in BC

What We Heard

"I have to go to their house to see if they are okay, and just hope they are home."

-BC anti-violence worker, on service users without connectivity

"Comfort comes with connection."

- B.C. anti-violence worker on the importance of meaningful connectivity

"We try to close the gap, but it's next to impossible with challenges that are out of our reach."

-BC anti-violence worker, on challenges due to lack of internet and cell phone infrastructure in their community

"I wish I had a phone so I could call my Aunt, because I feel unsafe here."

- A child accessing PEACE services, to a BC anti-violence worker

"I feel like [women without technology] fall through the cracks more."

-BC anti-violence worker

"Tech is running the world, and a lot of us aren't up to par with it."

-BC anti-violence worker, on tech and digital literacy

"Not being able to afford cell phones or data makes it harder for women to seek help and stay connected to friends, family and support networks. Women and children feel very isolated when all we offer is a communal landline. It also makes everything harder for women who are trying to start a new life and need to fill out applications/forms, send emails, look for rental [ads] or employment [ads]."

-BC anti-violence worker

"Our clients feel like they are not valued, isolated, marginalized because our shelter doesn't offer WIFI. [It also makes] finding housing and supports much more difficult for our clients."

-BC anti-violence worker

"We can't just give out devices, there needs to be digital literacy, financial security, legal support to make a real change."

-BC anti-violence worker, on connectivity for newcomer women

"Not only do newcomer women need affordability and access to the internet and devices, but so do [workers] in anti-violence centres."

- B.C. Anti-violence worker, on connectivity for newcomer women

1. Cahill, R., Kaya, Z. (2021). Connectivity and Violence Against Women in British Columbia: TFGBV, barriers, impacts, and recommendations. The BC Society of Transition Houses.