



November 24, 2023

Dear Partners and Colleagues,

We are writing this letter as the New Brunswick Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence (DIPV) Sector, composed of the **Domestic Violence Association of New Brunswick** (DVANB; formerly the NB South Central Transition House and Second Stage Coalition) and the **Réseau des services pour victimes de violence du Nouveau-Brunswick** (Réseau).

We would like to submit our requests for Provincial Budget 2024-25 for the NB DIPV Sector. Below you will find a high-level overview of our requests, whereas supporting material can be found in the additional document we have provided, titled “New Brunswick Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Sector Requests for Provincial Budget 2024-2025: Supplemental Information”.

1. A major investment is needed to hire additional staff to meet the high demand for services, to ensure that regular services are maintained while staff take on tasks related to government-led programs such as EIOs, CCR, and the new Canada Housing Benefit for Survivors of GBV, and to meet safety requirements.
2. An investment is required to hire staff with the professional qualifications necessary to meet the needs of clients within all transition houses and second stage housing in NB. This could include positions such as Residential Case Manager, Counsellor, Social Worker (or Social Work Technician), and Child Guidance Coordinator.
3. Funds are required to increase salaries and to make benefit packages accessible for all employees in our sector to reflect the importance of the work they do and to promote staff retention. We have been asking for this for several years now. With the 2022 increases in the minimum wage, this request is even more relevant.
4. Transition houses and second stage housing must receive the funding required to ensure organizational stability and sustainability, appropriate staffing levels on an ongoing basis, comprehensive and timely service delivery to clients, and delivery on service agreements. This will allow services to avoid having to devote valuable staff hours to fundraising and could correct the problem of unpredictable funding each year.
5. An ongoing commitment to increase operational funding and salaries is needed as the cost-of-living increases for both facilities and staff, and as the demand for services and workload increases.

6. Funding is needed to support onsite, wrap-around sexual assault services. This would include specialized sexual assault services, counselling, and resources and tools for children, youth, and their families, such as outlined in the child and youth advocacy center (CYAC) model and also implemented by similar services.

Thank you for your consideration of vulnerable women and children in our province and the organizations that work to support them. We would be happy to discuss these requests and recommendations in further detail; please contact Katey Altman, Coordinator for DVANB, at: coordinator@nbwomensshelters.com or (506) 304-7799.

Please accept our best regards.

The New Brunswick Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Sector:

Katey Altman, DVANB, Moncton;
Catherine Roy Comeau, RSVVNB, Dieppe;
Alyson Pizzey, President of DVANB, Fredericton;
Nadia Losier, President of RSVVNB, Tracadie Sheila.

Domestic Violence Association of New Brunswick is a provincial organization representing transition houses and second stage houses serving Anglophone and bilingual communities in New Brunswick.

Réseau des services pour victimes de violence du Nouveau-Brunswick is a provincial organization representing Francophone and bilingual transition houses, second stage houses, and sexual violence prevention centers in New Brunswick.