

**We need your help-NB leads the country with a 39% increase in intimate partner violence.**

Are you a long-time supporter, a new contributor, or are you looking to make a difference in the lives of women and children fleeing domestic violence? We need your support now more than ever. The landscape of our sector has changed and demand has grown exponentially. One thing that hasn't changed? There have been minimal increases in our core funding in the last 20 years. With the great demand for our services, it is difficult to meet the needs of our clients with the current funding. This is compounded by the current state of the economy. Without an increase in core funding, donations, and grants that make up the funds necessary to run the vast array of services we offer at Crossroads for Women, we need the community's help to bridge the gap.

The pandemic and the isolation that ensued from that put women and children in domestic violence situations in a very precarious position. Women and children looking to flee to a safe place where they could rebuild their lives, seek shelter at Crossroads, at one of the most difficult and vulnerable times of their lives. Our crisis calls alone increased to over 3000 calls in the past year. With a need for shelter and affordable housing, Crossroads has been at max capacity for well over a year now. Our Second Stage and affordable housing building is near full, while the organization has struggled throughout the pandemic for increased funding to match the demand for our services. This is especially true when you consider Crossroads is the largest shelter and Sexual Assault Centre in South Eastern NB.

**Why the need for such an increase in funding now?** Branching off from the impact of the pandemic and its increased demand for our services, Crossroads has felt the financial impact ten-fold. There is growing demand for our services and resources, housing, shelter stays being longer while housing is found, and the cost to operate multiple secure and safe buildings throughout the Tri-community area. Aside from the increase in demand for our services, the demands on the organization to thrive in times of an uncertain economy, inflation, and the increase in overall cost of goods and services make it difficult without an increase in our ask to our most dedicated and supportive donors. We understand that through these times, our community is struggling too, and we acknowledge that supporting a non-profit through your donations is difficult given these very same reasons listed above and how they impact our donor's capability to donate large amounts.

**What can YOU do to help Crossroads for Women?** Consider Crossroads for a contribution to help support a worthy cause that provides a sense of security for women and children who desperately need our help. We are asking the community and our donors to consider making a contribution to Crossroads that will ensure that we can sustain the quality of services we provide to our clients. With approximately 5000 social media followers and donors combined, if each of you contributed a one time donation of \$40 we could reach our goal of raising \$200,000.00 before the end of the fiscal year on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Donating is simple and can be done directly through our website under the "Donate" tab (<https://crossroadsforwomen.ca/en/how-you-can-help/donate>). Any and all denominations are greatly appreciated as well.

Let's work together to support this worthy charitable cause that gives hope and a new way forward for those experiencing domestic/intimate partner violence. Join us today in making this happen!

With my sincerest thanks and appreciation,



Chantal Poirier  
Executive Director