

**As a person residing in Canada you can exercise the following rights:**

- right to physical safety
- right to access emergency, legal and support services
- right to a violence free personal life
- right to protect your child(ren) from violence
- right to receive service in either French or English (an attempt will be made to provide service in your mother tongue)

**Domestic Violence in Canada:**

In Canada, it is illegal to physically or sexually abuse one's intimate partner, whether it is a spouse, common-law partner, a girlfriend or boyfriend. It is also illegal to use threats of violence or intimidation to maintain control in a relationship.

As a member of the diplomatic community, you can seek protection from violence in your relationship through the local police service.

The following information is designed to help you make informed choices in your life and in the lives of your children.

If you are experiencing domestic violence, every effort will be made to provide you with appropriate service.



**Committee for  
Members of  
the Diplomatic  
Community  
(Canada)**

**Your rights as a  
member of the  
Diplomatic  
Community in  
Canada**

*City of Ottawa  
Province of Ontario*

**For more information, go to:**

**[ottawapolice.ca/cmdc](http://ottawapolice.ca/cmdc)**

**In any emergency situation, call 911**

**© 2006 Committee for Members of the  
Diplomatic Community (Canada)**

**Ottawa Police Service: (OPS)**

Emergency: 911  
 Phone: (613) 236-1222

- if possible, wait for the police outside your home, particularly if you reside at an Embassy
- OPS has a specialized Partner Assault Unit which will investigate your situation
- OPS will refer you to their Victim Crisis Unit

**Victim Crisis Unit: (VCU)**

Phone: (613) 236-1222 ext. 5822

- will provide crisis intervention, support and referral to victims of crime and tragic circumstances

**Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC)**

Phone: (613) 992-8055  
[www.fac-aec.gc.ca](http://www.fac-aec.gc.ca)

- will coordinate between all agencies to ensure that your privileges and rights, under the Vienna Conventions, are respected and up-held

**Royal Canadian Mounted Police: (RCMP)**

Phone: (613) 952-4200

- will, as per agreement with the OPS, participate in an assessment of your situation, particularly if there are further concerns for your safety
- if possible, wait for the police outside your home, particularly if you reside at an Embassy
- will assist you in accessing other community resources

**Children's Aid Society of Ottawa: (CASO)**

Phone: (613) 747-7800

- if your situation involves children/youth

(under the age of 16) and you are concerned about the impact of violence on their lives, the CAS will be able to assist with support and further follow-up

- if during the course of a violent episode with your partner your children/youth are at risk of physical/emotional harm the CAS will assess the level of risk or any further safety concerns

**Family Law Office Ottawa: (FLO)**

Phone: (613) 569-7448

- if you are a victim of domestic violence and you are seeking legal advice regarding family law issues such as custody, visitation rights or restraining orders, the FLO can assist you to obtain the necessary information
- the FLO will assist you in applying for legal aid (free legal service) and in accessing other community resources

**Citizenship and Immigration Canada: (CIC)**

Phone: 1 (888) 242-2100  
[www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

- CIC will assist with your access to accurate information and available resources in the community with respect to your immigration status in Canada
- FAC (Office of Protocol) also offers services of a CIC office phone: (613) 992-0889

**Employment and Financial Assistance City of Ottawa (EFA)**

- if you are a victim of domestic violence, you may qualify for financial assistance for food or shelter or other emergency needs
- for information, call: (613) 560-6000

**Immigrant Women Services Ottawa**

Phone: (613) 729-3145

- if you are looking for culturally sensitive practical support, counselling and advocacy,

IWSO will be able to assist

- if you are a victim of domestic violence and need interpretation services in your mother tongue, IWSO will facilitate your access to such services

**Victim/Witness Assistance Program (V/WAP) Ministry of the Attorney General, Government of Ontario**

Phone: (613) 239-1229

- will assist you if you are victim of a crime or you have witnessed a crime
- will provide support to ensure that you understand the court process, that you receive information about your case and you have opportunities for input
- V/WAP will also provide court preparation and act as liaison with the Crown Attorney

**Community Legal and Counselling Services:**

Central:	(613) 241-7008
West End:	(613) 596-1641
South End:	(613) 733-0140
Ontario Legal Aid:	(613) 238-7931
Distress Centre:	(613) 238-3311
Family Service Centre:	(613) 725-3601
Catholic Family Service:	(613) 233-8478

**Emergency Shelters:**

Interval House:	(613) 234-5181
Maison D'Amitie:	(613) 747-0020
Nelson House:	(613) 225-3129
Chrysalis House:	(613) 591-5901
Family Shelters:	(613) 722-9495 (613) 820-9909
Salvation Army:	(613) 241-1573
Shepherds of Good Hope:	(613) 789-8210
Women's Shelter:	(613) 237-4669
YMCA/YWCA:	(613) 237-1320
La Presence:	(613) 233-8297