

# WHO WE ARE

The members of the Advocacy Council have come from a broad range of sectors and areas of expertise in prevention, women's support, leadership, and other system responses. They speak to particular barriers facing diverse groups such as Indigenous women and girls, those with disabilities, newcomer and migrant women and girls, and people from the LGBTQ2 and non-conforming communities.

# WHAT WE DO

The Women's Advocacy Council will share experiences, challenges, and key issues that women face in relation to the gender gap. They will provide feedback on recommended activities, guide roundtables, and be key figures in all resulting practices and activism.

# WHY WE DO IT

Out of 26 major Canadian cities, Barrie, Ontario ranked the worst city to be a woman. Our vision for this work is to eliminate the gender gap in public and private spheres, and also keep the report information.

*The Best and Worst Places to be a Woman in Canada 2019*

*Katherine Scott - Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives\**



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This project has been funded by



Women and Gender  
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité  
des genres Canada

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WOMEN'S  
ADVOCACY  
COUNCIL



OUR  
VOICE  
OUR  
FREEDOM

# We are building initiatives based on five pillars that are impacting the gender gap in Barrie.



## ECONOMIC SECURITY



**GOAL** Equal and full participation in the economy.

**WHY** Advancing women's economic participation drives economic growth and boosts the income of Simcoe County families. Increased income leads to economic independence and greater financial security for individuals and their families.

## EDUCATION



**GOAL** Equal opportunities and diversified paths in Education and Skills development.

**WHY** Every person should have opportunity to make choices about their education based on their interests, aptitudes and economic goals, regardless of gender. In addition, the knowledge-based economy demands a skilled, adoptable and diversified workforce to support Simcoe County competitiveness and prosperity.

## LEADERSHIP



**GOAL** Gender equality in leadership roles and at all levels of decision making.

**WHY** A balanced distribution of men and women at all levels of decision making is essential to a fair and democratic society. Gender equality and diversity in positions of leadership are associated with better management, increased availability of skilled employees, stronger employee engagement and higher productivity.

## HEALTH



**GOAL** Equitable access to optimal comprehensive health care, provided with integrity and compassion.

**WHY** The root causes of ill health among women are linked to gender inequality such as gender role conflicts, heavy workloads at home and in the workplace, higher levels of poverty, and barriers to community resources.

## SECURITY



**GOAL** Eliminating gender-based violence and harassment, and promoting security of the person and access to justice.

**WHY** Anyone can be a victim of violence, however women and girls, as well as members of the LGBTQ2 community and non-binary people, face a greater risk of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking. Violence can have impacts on a person's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health, which can span generations. Discrimination, harassment, and sexual violence in the workplace can also have profoundly negative effects on all aspects of the victim's life.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE!**

[www.barrieshelter.com](http://www.barrieshelter.com)