



FAFIA's Gender Budgeting Overview

What is Gender Budgeting?

- Government budgets often appear to be gender neutral, however the stark differences between women's and men's economic realities in Canada would suggest otherwise. They are policy outlines and give a clear view of where a government's financial and social priorities lie.
- Gender Budgets are not separate budgets for women, nor are they budgets that simply prescribe funding to what are traditionally "women's issues". Gender responsive budgeting is a policy process whereby budget measures are analysed and considered for their gendered impact.

Canada's Record on Gender Budgeting

- As a signatory to the United Nations Convention to End All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action signed at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, Canada has made a commitment to ensure that the goals of gender equality are realized through domestic and international policy measures. These measures include adopting transparent and accountable gender budgeting principles.
- Canada claims to do a high level of gender budgeting, however, recent budget measures would suggest otherwise.

Currently, some 60 countries in the world are engaged in various forms of gender budgeting. Despite their increasing legitimacy as a public policy tool, no federal, provincial, or territorial government in Canada to date has embarked upon a gender budgeting exercise." *Isabella Bakker, "Gender Budget Initiatives Why They Matter in Canada" Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives 2006*

- .Canada's federal donor agencies, such as CIDA make gender impact analyses imperative for the vast majority of its funding initiatives, yet such practices are not required in the current Federal Budgetary Process.

How Recent Federal Budget Trends Ignore Women's Realities

- Canada's domestic fiscal policies have undergone a shift over the past two decades. Governments are moving from delivering national social programs through budgetary expenditures to focusing on national revenue and offering assistance to Canadians through tax credits and tax cuts (Yalnizyan 2005).
- Recent federal budgets have offered more and more tax cuts and credits and less program funding and social investment that benefits women. This approach tends to favour those who pay a considerable amount of tax and offers limited or no assistance to low income Canadians, most of whom are women (See FAFIA's 2007 budget analysis).
- In 2003, the average per tax income for women was \$24, 400 the average before-tax income for men was \$39, 300. (*Statistics Canada, Women in Canada: A gender-based statistical report Fifth edition*)

FAFIA's Gender Budgeting Documents

- *FAFIA Brief to House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance's Pre-Budget Consultations* (November 2007)
- *Federal Budget Overview 2007: Not a Budget for Women* (FAFIA's Gender Based Analysis of the 2007 Federal Budget)
- *Quick Facts on Women's Economic Realities in Canada* (March 2007)
- *Assessing the Federal Budget 2005: What's In It For Women?* (March 2005): Prepared by Armine Yalnizyan for FAFIA
- *Canada's Commitment to Equality: A Gender Analysis of Ten Federal Budgets (1995-2004)*: Prepared by Armine Yalnizyan for FAFIA

Related Documents

- *Gender Budget Initiatives: Why They Matter in Canada* (By Isabellla Bakker in cooperation with the Gender Budget Analysis Committee of the Alternative Federal Budget)