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**Prioritize space &  
safety  
for women & gender  
diverse people  
in emergency  
housing**

**Intersectional feminist housing demand #2**



[octevaw-cocvff.ca/housing](https://octevaw-cocvff.ca/housing)

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Intersectional feminist  
housing demand #2

# What does this mean?



# Prioritize space & safety

- Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters for those fleeing abuse in Ottawa are almost always at capacity; over 2000 women were turned away because of a shortage of spots in the 2017/2018 fiscal year alone.
- When a VAW shelter is full, the City often sends survivors and their families to hotels or motels, many of which have been known to pose risks for further victimization or human trafficking; or to emergency shelters which present their own safety risks for women and gender diverse people.
- If VAW shelters are full the City may also direct women and gender diverse people needing shelter to mixed gender emergency shelters. Women and gender diverse residents often do not feel safe when accessing mixed gender emergency shelters.

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# Prioritize space & safety

- The shortage of VAW shelter spaces are perpetuated by the limited choices and lack of affordable housing for women to move into upon leaving shelters, which causes them to require emergency spaces for longer. This creates a bottleneck and prevents other survivors from accessing emergency VAW shelter space.
- There are no specific emergency shelter services for 2SLGBTQIA+ survivors - a gap that leaves many in danger.
- Creating more VAW emergency shelter and transitional housing spaces and creating emergency shelters for 2SLGBTIAQ+ survivors of violence must be prioritized.

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