

Will the AFB be a GSB?

What is a Gender-Sensitive Budget?

A Gender Sensitive Budget (GSB) reduces gender inequalities implicit in government expenditure and taxation policies. A GSB will decrease the socio-economic gap between women and men.

Why a GSB?

- ✓ Mobilize popular support for the Alternative Federal Budget (AFB) or any other alternative budget: a majority of women oppose another round of public social spending cuts.
- ✓ Change the nature and terms of the debate significantly.

How is it done? Some parameters for GSB Taxation, Public Investment, and Job Creation measures.

Taxation

FACT: The traditional family unit (with 'the spouse in the house') forms the basis for many tax credits and benefits and discriminates against families headed by lone females, and other non-traditional families.

FACT: More women have lower incomes, pay less tax, and so gain less from directed income tax relief than men.

GSB: Deliver social programs through direct expenditure such as publically-subsidized childcare.

FACT: Men represent more than 3/4s of tax filers with incomes over \$100,000

GSB: Restrict income tax relief measures to refundable tax credits only

Public Social Expenditures

FACT: The creation of public services moves women's unpaid work into the paid productive sphere thus increasing value and recognition of that labor.

GSB: Invest public funds in a public, non-profit child care system.

FACT: The highest income earners in Canada are men employed in the private sector.

FACT: As compared with the private sector, women are represented in the public service more and more equitably in comparable jobs than men.

GSB: Raise taxes on the highest income earners; protect public sector employment.

FACT: Women, especially seniors and aboriginal women are much more likely to face housing affordability problems.

GSB: Increase investments in social housing

FACT: Most low income primary care givers are women.

GSB: Increase support for child care and senior care.

Job Creation

FACT: Nearly 30% of the total female workforce is part-time and precariously employed; only about 10% of the total male workforce is part-time.

GSB: Direct training initiatives and job security policies to increase permanent employment at living wages.

FACT: More than 70% of the women in the paid labour force work in nursing, teaching, sales, clerical.

Women comprise as little as less than 10% of the construction workforce, just over 20% in engineering, and less than 1/3rd in the manufacturing trades.

GSB: Target job creation proposals to achieve a gender balance in employment stimuli.