

The 1325 Scorecard – Canada Summary (October 22, 2015)

General Assessment:

Canada adopted a NAP in 2010 and exhibits strengths in specific areas. That said, the women, peace and security framework is far from being mainstreamed within Canadian foreign and defense policy.

National Importance/Political Will:

National level documents, such as the Canadian National Action Plan (C-NAP) and progress reports, express high aspirations but prefer relatively general and vague language when it comes to actions or specifying mechanisms for systematic implementation. For example, while the C-NAP references the Department of National Defense (DND) throughout, no specific tasks are outlined. Moreover, the DND lacks its own implementation plan for meeting C-NAP objectives. Finally, no government funding appears to have been allocated to the DND, and budget allocations to other government agencies appear ad hoc.

Institutional Policy and Practice:

Implementation of the C-NAP goals in institutional policy and practice is mixed, with certain practices that are above average and others that lag significantly. For example, Canada's Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC) offers strong *pre-deployment* training in a gender perspective to all personnel deploying to peace support operations. However, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) lack Gender Advisors and Gender Focal Points, which calls into question how such pre-deployment training is applied and operationalized on a continuing basis in the field. Moreover, general training at junior, mid, and senior levels in the CAF does not incorporate a gender perspective on conflict, indicating that Canada is not yet committed to integrating this perspective into the general outlook of its armed forces.

Where Canada does implement a gender perspective in operations, it exhibits a strong focus on the protection of vulnerable groups—including women and children—from exploitation and abuse, especially sexual violence. However, long-term prevention of sexual violence and the participation of women in peace processes and governance—while present in the NAP—are rarely mentioned in subsequent progress reports. Finally, despite the international focus on protection, Justice Marie Deschamps scathing report finds that support for servicewomen who experience sexual violence in the CAF is ad hoc and woefully insufficient.¹

Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation:

Despite the publication of two progress reports (2011-2012 and 2012-2013) and annual reports to NATO's Committee on Gender Perspectives, monitoring and reporting of NAP implementation progress is not yet systematic. Statements in the progress reports and annual reports are often general and repetitive, while specific programming details are provided on an ad hoc basis. This presentation inhibits thorough evaluation of Canada's progress by the government and civil society groups.

Recommendations:

On the national level, Canada must clarify the specific role of the DND in implementing UNSCR 1325. At the level of institutional policy and practice, Canada should take three key steps: (1) expand training in the principles of UNSCR 1325 beyond the pre-deployment stage; (2) appoint Gender Advisors and

¹ Marie Deschamps, "External Review into Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Harassment in the Canadian Armed Forces," accessed on October 19, 2015, <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/caf-community-support-services/external-review-sexual-mh-2015/summary.page>.

Gender Focal Points to the command structure and thoroughly train them; and (3) follow the recommendations in the Deschamp report for addressing sexual violence within the CAF. Finally, Canada should systematize its monitoring and evaluation so that its implementation of UNSCR 1325 can be better ascertained.