

FAFIA fact sheet

Gender Budgeting: An Overview

What is a gender-sensitive budget?

Gender-sensitive budgeting doesn't mean a separate budget for women and men.

Gender-sensitive budgeting analyses how money is allocated and asks how that allocation of money impacts men and women differently.



Why have a gender-sensitive budget?

Resources are necessary in order to make a government's commitments to gender-equality a reality. Gender-sensitive budgeting considers how a government's spending is working to meet its commitment to gender-equality.

Questions to ask about your government's budget:

- Which communities, sectors or groups are receiving financial and human resources?
- What is the gender make-up of those communities, sectors or groups?
- Who benefits from tax breaks? Who benefits from income-splitting?
- What are the impacts of different debt reduction strategies?
- How is gender taken into account in policy formulation, design and implementation?
- Are there targets or benchmarks related to gender equality?
- Is gender-disaggregated data being collected?
- Are targets for gender equality being met?

Canada's Record on Gender Budgeting



In 1995, the Government of Canada committed to implement gender-based analysis throughout its departments and agencies – gender-based analysis would include an analysis of spending and economic policies and programs.

In 2009, the Auditor General of Canada issued a report on Canada's implementation of gender-based analysis, including in the Department of Finance, the Privy Council Office and the Treasury Board Secretariat. The Auditor General concluded that “despite the government commitment to GBA that has continued since 1995, there is no government-wide policy requiring that departments and agencies perform it.”

