# WOMEN'S COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT GUIDE

# Safety for Women Safety for Everyone

Let's Act on it



## Prepared by the

Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments
211 Bronson Ave. Room 205 Ottawa, Ontario KIR 6H5
Phone: (613) 230-6700 Fax: (613) 230-6249

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**WOMEN'S Initiatives for Safer Environments** 

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- 2. Why women's safety?
- 3. What is a safety audit process?
- 4. Benefits to users

#### PREPARING FOR THE AUDIT

- 1. The audit group
- 2. Practical considerations when working with marginalized groups
- 3. Auditing rural communities

#### **DEFINING THE AUDIT**

- 1. How large an area do you want to cover?
- 2. How many people on an audit team?
- 3. How much time should we allow for the audit?

#### DOING THE AUDIT

- 1. Helpful hints for the audit
- 2. When to audit
- 3. Using a checklist
- 4. Leading a safety audit group
- 5. Taking notes

#### **IMPLEMENTING THE AUDIT**

- 1. Organizing your findings
- 2. Sharing the results
- 3. Making recommendations
- 4. Working for change

#### **FURTHER READING**

#### **APPENDICES**

A. Comprehensive Safety Audit Checklist

#### Sample Letters

# This Community Safety Audit Guide is for every woman who wants to feel safer in her community and wants to do something about it.

#### But of course it will work for everyone

You have decided to do a safety audit because you do not feel safe in a particular area and you want to do something about it. The idea, then, is to gather the information that will help you articulate your concerns and lobby for changes. Safety audits focus specifically on preventing sexual harassment and all forms of assault by increasing women's safety in public and semi public places like:

- parks
- transit stations and bus stops
- streets
- the workplace
- colleges and universities
- underground parking garages
- schools and school yards
- washrooms in shopping malls
- the transit system
- laundry rooms
- parking lots
- recreation and community centres
- bars

Anywhere that makes the hair rise on the back of your neck.

This guide is designed to help you:

- identify the issues
- organize safety audits
- lobby for change

If you would like to order this step by step guide, please contact WISE at 613-230-6700 or info@wiseottawa.ca