

April 27, 2023



The Honorable Doug Downey
Attorney General of Ontario
McMurtry-Scott Building
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Dear Mr. Downey:

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services
Division

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**Alexander Harras
M.P.A.
Director of
Legislative Services
& Regional Clerk**

**RE: Motion Regarding Recognizing the Intimate Partner
Violence Epidemic, Our File: A00**

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on April 26, 2023, adopted the following resolution:

“WHEREAS Intimate partner violence (IPV) is physical, sexual and emotional abuse and aggression that occurs in an intimate relationship;

AND WHEREAS on the morning of September 22, 2015, Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam were murdered by a former partner;

AND WHEREAS on June 28, 2022, a five-person jury established as part of a coroner’s inquest into the events of September 22, 2015 delivered 86 recommendations;

AND WHEREAS specific legislation addressing family and domestic violence has been passed by six provinces and three territories; however, Ontario has not implemented this type of legislation;

AND WHEREAS the Violence Prevention Coordination Council of Durham (VPCC), which represents 35 local agencies including Luke’s Place, Herizon House, and the Durham Rape Crisis Centre, reported a significant increase in demand for assistance from local IPV support providers on behalf of member Victim Services of Durham Region, with IPV victim support up 32% over four years and sexual violence victim support up 277% over four years;

AND WHEREAS the City of Ottawa, Renfrew County, and Lanark County have passed motions declaring an IPV epidemic, and acknowledging the 86 recommendations in the Renfrew County Inquest;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Region of Durham declare an IPV epidemic and call on the Ontario Government to do the same, as per recommendation #1 of the Renfrew County Inquest; and
2. The Region of Durham integrate IPV into the Region's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, as per recommendation #10 of the Renfrew County Inquest; and
3. This motion be distributed to all Durham MPPs and MPs; the Provincial Ministries of the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, and the Office of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity; the Federal Ministries of Justice and the Attorney General, Women and Gender Equality and Youth, and Public Safety; all lower tier Durham municipalities, Durham Regional Police Services Board, Ontario Provincial Police, Renfrew County, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)."

Alexander Harras

Alexander Harras,
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk

AH/nb

C: Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Hon. Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth
Hon. Marco E. L. Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety
Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General
Hon. Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Children, Community & Social Services
Patrice Barnes, MPP, Ajax
Todd McCarthy, MPP, Durham
Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock
David Piccini, MPP, Northumberland/Peterborough South
Jennifer French, MPP, Oshawa

Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP, Pickering/Uxbridge
Lorne Coe, MPP, Whitby
Mark Holland, MP, Ajax
Erin O'Toole, MP, Durham
Jamie Schmale, MP, Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock
Philip Lawrence, MP, Northumberland/Peterborough South
Colin Carrie, MP, Oshawa
Jennifer O'Connell, MP, Pickering/Uxbridge
Ryan Turnbull, MP, Whitby
Nicole Cooper, Clerk, Town of Ajax
Fernando Lamanna, Clerk, Township of Brock,
June Gallagher, Clerk, Municipality of Clarington
Mary Medeiros, Clerk, City of Oshawa
Susan Cassel, Clerk, City of Pickering
Becky Jamieson, Clerk, Township of Scugog
Debbie Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge
Chris Harris, Clerk, Town of Whitby
Bill Clancy, Executive Director, Durham Regional Police
Services Board
Thomas Carrique, Commissioner, Ontario Provincial Police
Rose Gruntz, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk, County of
Renfrew
B. Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of
Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Carole Saab, CEO, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
(FCM)