



Motion on Gender-Based and Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic

August 20, 2023

WHEREAS 42 municipalities and regions including OBCM and MARCO members Ajax, Brampton, Burlington, Clarington, Hamilton, London, Oakville, Ottawa, Pickering, Whitby, Toronto and Windsor, along with Peel, Durham and Halton Regions as well as Lanark County, Essex County and Renfrew County across Ontario have declared a gender-based violence and/or intimate partner violence epidemic (as of August 18, 2023) and;

WHEREAS on August 16, 2023 Justice Minister Arif Virani described gender-based violence as “an epidemic” in the federal government’s formal response to a coroner’s inquest, also stating that his government is committed to ending the gender-based violence epidemic “in all its forms, and is working to address any gaps in the Criminal Code to ensure a robust justice system response,” and;

WHEREAS by declaring gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic, OBCM and MARCO can join the growing number of municipalities and regions in demanding action from all levels of government to address this growing epidemic and;

WHEREAS the incidences of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence increased exponentially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and has not decreased, while funding to provide the growing demand of services and support for victims and survivors of intimate partner and gender based violence has not kept pace.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT OBCM and MARCO declare gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic, and;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT OBCM and MARCO recommend that gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence be declared an epidemic in the Province of Ontario and;

REQUEST THAT the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all municipalities and regions in Ontario declare a gender-based and intimate partner violence epidemic across the country and;

REQUEST THAT the provincial and federal governments enact the additional 85 recommendations from the inquest into the 2015 murders of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam in Renfrew County, Ontario, which provide a roadmap to preventing intimate partner violence from escalating to femicide and;



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REQUEST THAT that the Federal government starts this enactment by adding the word Femicide as a term to the Criminal Code of Canada, and;

REQUEST THAT the provincial and federal governments provide the necessary support to municipalities, regions and their emergency and social services to meaningfully address the gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence epidemic.