
Corporate Services

November 13, 2023

Re: Gender Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Orangeville, at its Regular Council Meeting held on October 30, 2023, approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS the safety of our community and its members is of extreme importance to every Orangeville resident, as well as to Orangeville Council; and

WHEREAS gender-based violence and intimate partner violence (IPV), often referred to as domestic violence, means any use of physical or sexual force, actual or threatened in an intimate relationship, including emotional and/or psychological abuse or harassing behaviour; and

WHEREAS on August 16th, 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, the Town of Orangeville 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 have 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 has not kept pace;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The Town of Orangeville officially declare intimate-partner violence an epidemic, as per recommendation #1 from the Culleton, Kuzyk, and Warmerdam (CKW) Inquest; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:**
- 2. The Town of Orangeville recommends that gender-based violence and intimate partner violence be declared an epidemic in the Province of Ontario; and**
- 3. That the Town of Orangeville requests that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities and regions in Ontario declare gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic; and**
- 4. That the Town of Orangeville requests that the provincial and federal governments enact the additional 85 recommendations from the CKW Inquest, which provides a roadmap to preventing intimate partner violence from escalating to femicide; and**
- 5. That the Town of Orangeville requests that the federal government starts this enactment by adding the word “femicide” as a term to the Criminal Code of Canada; and**
- 6. That the Town of Orangeville requests 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; and**
- 7. That the Acting Clerk be directed to send a copy of this motion to the County of Dufferin, the Honourable Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, the United Nations, and all Ontario Municipalities.**

Carried Unanimously.

Yours truly,

Tracy Macdonald
Acting Clerk