



PCAWA
PEEL COMMITTEE AGAINST WOMEN ABUSE

WE COUNT
FEMICIDE
BECAUSE...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 13, 2024

RE: Femicide in Mississauga

August 13, 2024. Peel Region - The Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (PCAWA) is incredibly saddened and outraged to share that on Saturday July 6th Jean McCalla, 62, was murdered in a Mississauga elementary school parking lot. The accused arrested for her murder was her 30-year old son. PCAWA sends our deepest condolences to her family, friends and community.

The dominant narrative pertaining to femicide is that they take place within an intimate partner relationship and hidden away within the home. However, trends forming in our community say otherwise. This is the second femicide to take place in our community this year. A concerning trend to acknowledge is that in both cases the accused is the son of the victim and the incident happened in a public place.

Understanding what femicide means is critical in raising awareness on an issue that continues to grow larger in Ontario. Femicide includes any gender-based killing of a woman, child, trans woman, 2-Spirited Person or gender non-conforming individual where a man has been charged in relation to the death.¹ In July alone, Ontario had at least 8 femicides take place across the province.

“The number of femicides continues to grow across the province, and it is terrifying. Our community continues to experience great loss because of gender-based violence and it’s something we all need to be talking about. Femicide is preventable, but only if the necessary actions are taken. We need action now.” Andrine Johnson, PCAWA Co-Chair and CEO of Embrace: Agency to End Violence

Over the last two months, PCAWA has been working to set up meetings with all 12 of the Peel Region MPPs to discuss the issue of gender-based violence in our community, including the rising rates of femicide. We are disappointed to share that we only heard back from and were able to schedule meetings with 5 of the MPPs. We will continue our outreach and communication to try and secure these important conversations with all 12 of them.

WE MUST DO BETTER

Most femicides are preventable. ***We Count Femicide Because...*** is intended to mark the tragic loss of each life, to raise a public alarm and to engage everyone in working together toward prevention. Professionals, coworkers, neighbours, friends and family members can learn to recognize the warning signs and how to respond safely and supportively. It is a call to action to prevent future deaths. Ask us what you can do to contribute.

¹ Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses (OAITH)

PCAWA just released its newest resource, the [GBV Resource Guide](#). This resource guide was developed to provide a clear, detailed and comprehensive overview of supports and services available to survivors of gender-based violence in the Region of Peel. It includes informational profiles for over 100 community supports in the Greater Toronto Area.

Education is a key part of prevention and PCAWA has created a series of resources to support these prevention efforts. The [GBV Allyship Resource](#) outlines tangible ways to get involved in GBV advocacy, and the [Understanding Femicide Infographic](#) provides education and information on femicide. The [2023 PCAWA Peel Regional Snapshot](#) is now available, which shares more information about gender-based violence within the context of the Region of Peel. All three of these resources are available on the PCAWA website.

PCAWA also has training opportunities available on the [Enhanced Gender-Based Violence Protocol](#) for the Region of Peel. This training is available to all community members and will provide you with information on how to best support survivors and respond to disclosures of gender-based violence. Please contact Rebecca Pacheco at rebeccap@embrace.ca to schedule this training.

If you would like to join the PCAWA mailing list to receive newsletters and updates on events and advocacy efforts email rebeccap@embrace.ca

If you are a survivor of violence in need of support, please contact Embrace: Agency to End Violence's 24-hour Crisis Line at 905-403-0864 or 1-855-676-8515. You can also seek support from any of the PCAWA member agencies. Visit their website at www.pcawa.net for more information. **Remember that you are not alone. We are here if you need us.**

You can find a link to related media here:

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/stabbing-in-mississauga-school-parking-lot-leaves-woman-dead-one-person-in-custody-1.6954411>

<https://torontosun.com/news/local-news/crimescene-woman-killed-in-mississauga-stabbing>