



PCAWA

PEEL COMMITTEE AGAINST WOMEN ABUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 23, 2023

RE: Declaration of Gender-Based Violence and Intimate-Partner Violence as an Epidemic in Peel Region and the City of Brampton

June 23, 2023 - The Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (PCAWA) is proud to be a part of critical advocacy efforts that have resulted in the Region of Peel and the City of Brampton declaring intimate-partner violence and gender-based violence an epidemic in their respective communities. These two areas are joining the 25 other towns, cities, regions, and counties across Ontario who have made this declaration in their community.

Declaring intimate-partner violence an epidemic was the first of 86 jury recommendations that came out of the Renfrew Inquest as a result of the deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam. In 2015, these three women were murdered on the same day by the same man, despite very clear warning signs about his potential to inflict further harm.

On Wednesday June 21, the PCAWA Coordinator Rebecca Pacheco, joined Sharon Mayne Devine, CEO of Catholic Family Services, Safe Center of Peel; Jasminder Sekhon, President and CEO, and Amandeep Kaur, Lead Policy Analyst at Gequity Consulting; and Zanana L, Akande, community activist and a former Minister of Community and Social Services of Ontario in sharing delegations with Brampton City Council in support of the motion that they declare gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence an epidemic. The motion was passed unanimously by Brampton City Council.

On Thursday June 22, Rebecca Pacheco presented a delegation in front of Peel Regional Council and proposed the motion that intimate-partner violence and gender-based violence be declared an epidemic in Peel Region. The motion was passed unanimously by Peel Regional Council.

PCAWA would like to share deep gratitude to Brampton City Councilor (Wards 2 and 6) Navjit Kaur Brar and Brampton City Councillor (Wards 1 and 5) Rowena Santos for their incredible support and leadership in advocating for these motions to pass.

PCAWA's next advocacy efforts include a delegation in front of Mississauga's City Councilors and Caledon's City Councilors to request the declaration of intimate-partner violence and gender-based violence as epidemics in their communities.

Intimate-partner violence and gender-based violence is an epidemic. It is a public health problem. Every 48 hours a woman or girl is killed by an act of violence in Canada¹. Between November 2021 and November 2022, 52 people were killed in a femicide in Ontario.² The Region of Peel had 4

¹ <https://femicideincanada.ca/callitfemicide2018-2022.pdf>

² <https://www.oaith.ca/assets/library/MoreThanANumber.pdf>

femicides in 2022 and has already had 2 femicides in 2023. Community organizations and advocates need our provincial leaders to formally recognize this as the public health problem we know it to be.

“As we grow the list of regions, cities, towns and counties that have declared intimate-partner violence and gender-based violence an epidemic, we are also confirming to the provincial government that this is an issue that is being felt across the province that requires immediate action,” said Rebecca Pacheco, PCAWA Coordinator, “We need our provincial government to listen to the municipalities and regions across the province as we’re calling out for support, leadership and funding at a provincial level.”

The 2023 provincial budget did not provide new investments to adequately respond to the rising rates of gender-based violence across the province, despite the calls from community organizations and coordinating committees. These declarations across the province will hopefully give the provincial government no choice but to listen to what community members and organizations are saying about gender-based violence because everyone deserves to live a life free from violence.

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

If you are a survivor of violence in need of support, please contact Embrave: 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 Peel Committee Against Women Abuse member agencies. Visit our website at www.pcawa.net for more information. **Remember that you are not alone. We are here if you need us.**

You can find links to the delegation videos here:

City of Brampton -

<https://pub-brampton.escribemeetings.com/Players/ISISStandAlonePlayer.aspx?Id=66897638-f171-4c8b-83bf-bbb0a5166315> (1:12:50)

Region of Peel -

<https://pub-peelregion.escribemeetings.com/Players/ISISStandAlonePlayer.aspx?Id=d66f8139-6069-4799-a3f0-bff990eef1f2> (2:20:31)

You can find a link to a related media article here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/peel-region-intimate-gender-violence-epidemic-1.6884987>

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