



**PCAWA**  
PEEL COMMITTEE AGAINST WOMEN ABUSE

WE COUNT  
**FEMICIDE**  
BECAUSE...



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date: May 23, 2023**

RE: Femicide in Brampton

May 23, 2023. Brampton - The Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (PCAWA) is outraged and deeply saddened to share the news that on Friday May 19th Davinder Kaur, 43, was murdered in Brampton by her male partner. PCAWA sends our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

PCAWA understands that femicide is not an isolated incident, we know that gender-based violence continues to be an ongoing issue in our community. In Canada, every 48 hours a woman or girl is killed by an act of violence<sup>1</sup>. We need immediate action.

“Femicides are a systemic issue that reflect the systemic inequities and patriarchal systems that condone, normalize and encourage acts of gender-based violence. In Ontario, 52 femicides took place between 2021 - 2022<sup>2</sup>. One life lost a week in our province to femicide and gender-based violence. We need a meaningful, sustainable and systemic response to fundamentally change the systems and structures that keep allowing this to happen.” - Maria Zigouris, PCAWA Co-Chair

PCAWA will continue to draw attention to this issue in our community and demand action be taken. We will be putting forth a motion at an upcoming regional council meeting that the Region of Peel declare intimate-partner violence and gender-based violence an epidemic. This is the first [jury recommendation](#) that came out of the Renfrew Inquest into the deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam. Currently, 14 regions, towns and counties across the province have already passed this motion, with 3 others in the works. We will call on the leaders in our community to do the same to send a clear message to our community and province that Peel recognizes the imminent issue of intimate-partner and gender-based violence and are committed to taking action.

PCAWA will also be sharing a series of public education content pertaining to femicide on our social media platforms. It is essential that our community understands what femicide is and why it continues to be an issue we cannot ignore. A summary infographic of the content will be available on our website.

### WE COUNT FEMICIDE BECAUSE:

- Indigenous, Black and 2SLGBTQ+ women, girls, gender-diverse individuals and women with disabilities are at increased risk and experience disproportionate levels of gender-based violence.
- Every life lost to femicide tears a hole in the fabric of our communities. We honour their lives and commit to making changes to prevent future femicides.
- Naming men’s violence as the problem is part of the change we need to make as a society. We can’t change it if we can’t name it.
- For every femicide, there are more survivors who are not safe in their homes, workplaces and communities. We can do more to reach out and support them. We can engage their

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, [#CallItFemicide Report](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ontario Association of Interval and Transitional Houses, [More Than A Number Report](#)

intimate partners, family members, friends, coworkers and acquaintances to end the violence.

## **WE CAN CHANGE THE OUTCOMES**

There is no commitment to prevention in Ontario or Canada. For 20 years domestic homicide death reviews have provided recommendations that can move us toward prevention. It is time to review our progress and invest in the evidence to see stronger social returns. There are successes to build on. There are experts and advocates in every community who can help.

## **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.

“We all have a responsibility to work towards ending gender-based violence, and it’s not until we individually realise and act upon this responsibility that gender-based violence will be meaningfully addressed,” said Rebecca Pacheco, the Coordinator of the Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (PCAWA). PCAWA has created a [GBV allyship resource](#), available on our website, which outlines tangible ways that everyone can get involved in ending gender-based violence.”

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@embrave.ca](mailto:rebeccap@embrave.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@embrave.ca](mailto: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 their website at [www.pcawa.net](http://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 a related media article here:

[https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news/peel-police-identify-woman-fatally-stabbed-in-brampton-man-facing-first-degree-murder-charges/article\\_ccf66186-9eda-5af4-9b15-a5e7c0604069.html](https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news/peel-police-identify-woman-fatally-stabbed-in-brampton-man-facing-first-degree-murder-charges/article_ccf66186-9eda-5af4-9b15-a5e7c0604069.html)

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