



**PCAWA**  
PEEL COMMITTEE AGAINST WOMEN ABUSE

WE COUNT  
**FEMICIDE**  
BECAUSE...



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date: July 31, 2023**

RE: Femicide in North York

July 31, 2023. Peel Region - The Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (PCAWA) is outraged and deeply saddened to share the news that on Friday June 30th, Tracy Lynne Iannuccilli was murdered in North York by her male partner. Tracy was born and raised in the Brampton area and had many connections to the Region of Peel. PCAWA sends our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

As intimate-partner violence and gender-based violence has been declared an epidemic in 40 municipalities across the province, we know that femicide is not an isolated incident but the results of systemic inequities and patriarchal systems that condone, normalize and encourage acts of violence towards women and gender-diverse individuals. It is a systemic public health issue being experienced across the province at an alarming rate.

“This is the third femicide to occur this year with a direct connection to Peel Region. We know that gender-based violence is an epidemic, it is a systemic public health issue. In Ontario there have been 30 femicides in 30 weeks, one person killed in an act of gender-based violence every week in this province. We need government recognition of this crisis and their plan for action.” - Andrine Johnson, Embrave CEO & PCAWA Co-Chair

Both the Region of Peel and the City of Brampton have declared intimate-partner violence and gender-based violence an epidemic in their communities. We need action from our political leaders. In the coming months, PCAWA will be reaching out to our community’s political leaders at the municipal, provincial and federal level, to invite them personally to sit down and engage in a discussion around what actions and commitments we need from our various levels of government in responding to gender-based violence in our community.

PCAWA will continue to echo the call of communities and advocates across the province to the provincial government to declare intimate-partner and gender-based violence an epidemic in our community.

We need *immediate* action. The trends show us that there will be at least one femicide, one life taken every week in our province. We need action for all levels of government that recognize the urgency of this crisis.

### **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

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

## **WE CAN CHANGE THE OUTCOMES**

There is no urgent 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.

“Gender-based violence is a systemic issue that requires a systemic response to meaningfully address. It is not until everyone understands and acts on their responsibility to end gender-based violence that we will see a change in these alarming trends,” said Rebecca Pacheco, the Coordinator of the Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (PCAWA).

PCAWA has many resources available for the community that provides education and information on how to get involved in gender-based violence advocacy. The [GBV Allyship Resource](#) outlines tangible ways to get involved in GBV advocacy and support, and the [Understanding Femicide Infographic](#) provides education and information on femicide. Both 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@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.**

## **CONTACT:**

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