

May 11, 2023

Please be advised that during the Regular Council meeting of May 9, 2023 the following resolution regarding Declaring Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic was carried:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-294

DATE: May 9, 2023

MOVED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

SECONDED BY: Councillor St-Jean

WHEREAS the jury that adjudicated the Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam Inquest (The Renfrew Inquest) issued 86 recommendations to the Province of Ontario on Intimate Partner Violence; and **WHEREAS** recommendation #1 of the Inquest is for the Province of Ontario to declare Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic; and

WHEREAS every six days in Canada a woman is killed by her intimate partner, and rural areas see an increased risk of Intimate Partner Violence; and

WHEREAS this past year in Ontario, 52 women or one every week, were victims of femicide, and in Prince Edward County, 233 domestic violence investigations in 2022 were led by the OPP, and service provision by Alternatives for Women was provided to over 100 women and their children per year in our community; and

WHEREAS violence against women costs the national justice system, health care systems, social service agencies, and municipalities billions of dollars per year; and municipalities are on the front lines in addressing gender-based violence; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward has recognized that issues of violence against women in rural communities are of local importance to the health and wellness of our residents, and has demonstrated this by including it as a pillar in our Community Safety and Well-Being Plan;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward recognizes that:

- the Renfrew Inquest is important to all rural communities;
- Council is committed to engaging with community partners to educate and support our residents about the seriousness and long-term consequences of gender-based violence in our community; and

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward declares, in accordance with Recommendation #1 of the Renfrew Inquest, that Intimate Partner Violence and Violence Against Women are epidemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to all 444 municipalities of Ontario, The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Hon. Charmaine A. Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, Bay of Quinte MPP, Todd Smith, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Ferguson, Councillor Hirsch, Councillor MacNaughton & Marcia Wallace, CAO

