

April 18, 2024

Re: Item for Discussion – Correspondence from Muskoka Domestic Abuse Review Team, dated January 2024, regarding Declaring Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic

At its meeting of April 10, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion #24-GC-068, regarding Declaring Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic, as follows:

“WHEREAS in June 2022 the Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest was held to investigate the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam, all of whom were killed by the same perpetrator on September 22, 2015;

AND WHEREAS the jury returned eighty-six (86) powerful recommendations, the first calling on the Ontario Government to declare of Intimate Partner Violence as an epidemic;

AND WHEREAS on August 16th, 2023, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Arif Virani described Gender-Based Violence as “an epidemic” in the federal government’s formal response to a coroner’s inquest, also stating that his government is committed to ending the Gender-Based Violence epidemic “in all its forms, and is working to address any gaps in the Criminal Code to ensure a robust justice system response”;

AND WHEREAS the incidences of Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence increased exponentially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and has not decreased, while funding to provide the growing demand of services and support for victims and survivors of Intimate Partner Violence and Gender-Based Violence has not kept pace;

AND WHEREAS by declaring Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic, the Town of Bracebridge can join the growing number of municipalities in Ontario demanding action from all levels of government to address this growing epidemic;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Bracebridge declares Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to declare Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic;

AND FURTHER THAT that this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario; Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity; Attorney General; Solicitor General; Minister of Health; Member of Provincial Parliament for Parry Sound-Muskoka; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO); Muskoka Area Indigenous Leadership Table (MAILT); and all Ontario Municipalities.”

In accordance with Council's direction, I am forwarding you a copy of the resolution for your reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional clarification in this regard.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk