



Rainbow
Registered
Arc-en-ciel
Officiel

Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box 820
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

November 26, 2024

Sent via Email: Premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Re: Town of Saugeen Shores Support Resolution for Intimate Partner Violence

Dear Premier Ford,

At the November 25, 2024, Regular Council meeting for the Town of Saugeen Shores, Council passed the following resolution:

Whereas more than 4 in 10 Canadian women have experienced some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and 1 in 10 experience it almost daily; and

Whereas while one-third of men have also experienced intimate partner violence, women disproportionately experience the most severe forms. According to the Government of Canada, between 2014 and 2019 there were 497 cases of intimate partner homicide nationally and 80% of the victims were women; and

Whereas rates of intimate partner violence are nationally 75% higher for rural women compared to urban women; and

Whereas although IPV is not a pathogen, it is appropriate to label IPV as an epidemic because it has ripple effects causing future poor health outcomes for affected victims and their families, which negatively affect community health, policing, and social services resources; and

Whereas in Saugeen Shores, police-reported Domestic Violence incidents increased between 2018/04/01 to 2024/04/01 by an average of 55.4%; and

Whereas in Bruce and Grey Counties, domestic violence calls between 2018 and 2020 to police increased by 133%; and

Whereas members of the Saugeen Shores Police have been enrolled in the collaborative Police Action on Intimate Partner Violence course, training which improves their policy and action to keep individuals, families, and communities safe; and

Whereas all programs in the Grey-Bruce Health Unit, especially the clinical ones, have components to identify and report any type of violence, including IPV; and several family-

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based programs actively and proactively work with individuals and families on early identification and prevention of IPV, as well as the Unit's collaboration with Bruce Grey Child and Family Services and police services, and

Whereas On January 8, 2024, Saugeen Shores Council supported the Town of Goderich's resolution to Declare Intimate Partner Violence as an Epidemic, and

Whereas it is critical for victims, family members, survivors, and others in our community to see Saugeen Shores' commitment to solving the problem of IPV by, among other actions, recognizing its severity.

Now be it resolved that the Town of Saugeen Shores recognizes the issues of intimate partner violence in rural communities as serious to the health and wellness of local families, and

That the Town of Saugeen Shores is committed to engaging with community partners to educate and support our residents about the seriousness of intimate partner violence in our community; and

That the Town of Saugeen Shores calls on the Standing Committee of Justice to hold hearings in the fall of 2024 on Bill 173, The Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act; and

That the Town of Saugeen Shores calls on the Province of Ontario to pass and implement Bill 173, The Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act; and

That this resolution be circulated to the Standing Committee on Justice-Clerk, Thushitha Kobikrishna; Chair Lorne Coe, Standing Committee on Justice, Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, Attorney General Doug Downey, Minister of Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson, Grey Bruce Medical Officer Dr. Arra, the Saugeen Shores Police Services, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and to all municipalities in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Dawn Mittelholtz,
Clerk

CC: Standing Committee on Justice-Clerk, Thushitha Kobikrishna
Standing Committee on Justice, Chair Lorne Coe
Minister of Health Sylvia Jones
Attorney General Doug Downey
Minister of Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson
Grey Bruce Medical Officer Dr. Arra
Saugeen Shores Police Services
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipalities