

July 14, 2026

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A1

VIA EMAIL: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Sir:

Re: Declaration of Intimate Partner Violence as an Epidemic

Please be advised that the Town of New Tecumseth Council passed the following resolution at their meeting of July 13, 2026:

Whereas intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious and pervasive public health and safety issue affecting individuals, pregnant women, families, and communities across Ontario and Canada;

And Whereas Statistics Canada reports that approximately 44% of Canadian women have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime, while 33% of Canadian women have experienced sexual assault;

And Whereas Indigenous women, pregnant women and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals experience disproportionately high rates of violence, with 61% of Indigenous women and 67% of 2SLGBTQIA+ women having experienced intimate partner violence;

And Whereas according to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), 66% of female homicide victims in Canada were killed by an intimate partner;

And Whereas rural communities face an even greater impact, with victims experiencing a 75% higher risk of intimate partner violence;

And Whereas on September 22, 2015, the murders of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam in Renfrew County brought national attention to the devastating consequences of intimate partner violence;

And Whereas the 2022 Renfrew County Joint Inquest into these femicides resulted in 86 recommendations, with Recommendation #1 calling upon the Province of Ontario to formally declare intimate partner violence an epidemic;

And Whereas despite the findings and recommendations of the Coroner's Inquest, the Province of Ontario has not formally declared intimate partner violence an epidemic;

And Whereas police-reported intimate partner violence cases in Ontario increased from 4,450 incidents in 2022 to 5,988 incidents in 2024, representing an 18% increase according to the Ontario Provincial Police Data, Statistics & Analysis Unit;

And Whereas North Simcoe Victim Services reported a 64% increase in intimate partner violence calls between 2023 and 2025, rising from 255 calls to 417 calls;

And Whereas 2025 combined statistics from Violence Against Women agencies serving Orillia, Barrie, Alliston, Collingwood, and Midland recorded:

- 12,870 crisis calls;
- 335 women requiring in-shelter stays;
- 167 children requiring in-shelter stays;
- 1,039 referrals due to agencies reaching capacity limits;

And Whereas the Government of Canada formally recognized intimate partner violence as an epidemic in 2023, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario also declared intimate partner violence an epidemic in 2023;

And Whereas more than 115 municipalities across Ontario, representing over 70% of Ontario's population, have passed motions declaring intimate partner violence an epidemic;

And Whereas declaring intimate partner violence an epidemic:

- demonstrates leadership and commitment to addressing the crisis;
- raises public awareness;
- reduces stigma experienced by victims and survivors;
- helps individuals know support services are available;
- strengthens eligibility for provincial funding opportunities for community agencies;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of New Tecumseth formally declare intimate partner violence an epidemic;

And Further That Council call upon the Province of Ontario to formally recognize intimate partner violence as an epidemic across Ontario;

And Further That the Province be urged to implement the recommendations of the Renfrew County Joint Inquest, including Recommendation #1;

And Further That copies of this resolution be circulated to:

- The Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;
- The Solicitor General of Ontario;
- The Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity;
- The Brian Saunderson, Member of Provincial Parliament;
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
- The County of Simcoe;
- All municipalities within Simcoe County and Ontario;
- Local violence against women and victim support agencies within Simcoe County

Yours truly,

Pam Slowleigh

Pamela Slowleigh
Manager, Legislative Services / Deputy Clerk

Cc: Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario, Minister.SOLGEN@ontario.ca
Honourable Charmaine A. Williams, The Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, charmaine.williams@pc.ola.org
MPP Brian Saunderson (Simcoe–Grey), brian.saunderson@pc.ola.org
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), resolutions@amo.on.ca
The County of Simcoe, clerks@simcoe.ca
Local violence against women & victim support agencies within Simcoe County:
Victim Services of Simcoe County, ed@VictimServicesSimcoe.ca,
info@VictimServicesSimcoe.ca
My Sister's Place, pitmsp@mysistersplace.ca
Women and Children's Shelter of Barrie, info@barrieshelter.com
Regional Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centre for Simcoe County and Muskoka, sadvtc@osmh.on.ca
Elizabeth Fry Society Simcoe Muskoka, meaghanc@elizabethfrysociety.com
North Simcoe Victim Services, exdir@ns-vs.com
Huronian Transition Homes, admin@rosewood.on.ca
Biminaawzogin Regional Aboriginal Women's Circle (BRAWC),
admin@brawc.com
All municipalities within Simcoe County and Ontario