



Dave Smith, M.P.P
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April 9, 2024

Re: Bill 173: *Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, 2024.*

Dear M.P.P. Smith;

We write today as the Peterborough Domestic Abuse Network (PDAN) to express our enthusiastic support of Bill 173, the *Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, 2024.* The passage of this Bill has the potential bring much needed attention and support to address the province-wide problem of gender-based violence. Your support for this Bill would amplify the declarations passed by 94 municipalities, including the City of Peterborough and Peterborough County.

PDAN is a network of people and organizations working to end intimate partner violence in Peterborough City and County. We are committed to providing coordinated, consistent and compassionate services to survivors and to promoting healthy relationships. We are working toward the local implementation of recommendations from the [Renfrew Inquest, Mass Casualty Commission](#) and the [National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls final reports](#). These reports identify actionable items that, if implemented, will help to prevent violence in our community.


Our group of 30+ organizations are actively responding to incidents of physical, emotional, financial, sexual and other forms of violence and abuse. With that in mind, **we are collectively asking you to recognize that many of your constituents are being impacted by this violence here in Peterborough, and across the province.**

The most recent Community Snapshot, attached to this letter, demonstrates the high level of need across our community. This collated data highlights 2022 data from both police services, shelters, crisis line calls, Peterborough Regional Health Centre, City of Peterborough Social Services and other community organizations and other community partners only scratches the surface of the reality in our region. We know that only 1 in 5 people experiencing DV said they reported to police. If 80% of people do not report, the total occurrences of DV in our communities could be 10,230 per year! And this does not include assaults by someone outside of a relationship.

The first of eighty-six recommendations of the Coroner's *Inquest into the deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk & Nathalie Warmerdam* ("the Renfrew inquest") is for the Government of Ontario **to formally declare intimate partner violence as an epidemic.**

COMMUNITY COUNSELLING AND RESOURCE CENTRE

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Bill 173 represents a critical step towards increasing supports to survivors and to preventing violence against women, girls and gender-diverse people. Together, we urge you to support the swift passage of this Bill to make a difference in the lives of those experiencing or at risk of gender-based violence.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bass
Manager - Fundraising, Communications, PDAN
PDAN – Peterborough Domestic Abuse Network
CCRC



Peterborough
Domestic
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