

From: Correspondance / Correspondence (FEGC/WAGE) <CFC.Correspondance-Correspondence.SWC@cfc-swc.gc.ca>

Sent: August 6, 2021 1:34 PM

To: Iannicca, Nando <nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca>

Subject: Correspondence on behalf of the Department For Women and Gender Equality Canada

RECEIVED

August 6, 2021

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Dear Nando:

Thank you for writing to the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development on July 16, 2021, regarding your concerns about sustainable funding for victims of family violence and the recent rise in family and intimate partner violence in Peel.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the most pervasive, deadly and deeply-rooted human rights violations of our time and our government continues to be committed to preventing and addressing this serious problem in our country, including the prevalence of harmful attitudes and social norms.

As Minister for Women and Gender Equality (WAGE), I have been mandated to build on the foundation laid by the federal Gender-Based Violence Strategy (GBV Strategy) and develop a National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, which addresses all forms of GBV, including that experienced by children. The National Action Plan will address the root causes and systemic barriers that perpetuate GBV and work towards ensuring that everyone who is experiencing or has experienced GBV has timely access to supports, services and protections.

Reinforcing the Government's commitment to end GBV, Budget 2021 builds on investments made in Budgets 2017, 2018 and 2019 by proposing to invest \$601.3 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, to advance towards a National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. Funding complements existing federal efforts under the federal GBV Strategy. This includes \$200 million over 2 years for WAGE to enhance the capacity of organizations such as sexual assault centres, women's shelters, and other organizations that provide critical and often life-saving services and supports for women, girls, LGBTQ2, and gender non-binary people experiencing violence. Funding will also support GBV organizations to adapt and prepare for GBV service provision post-pandemic, as well as address current needs to deliver these lifesaving GBV supports and services in response to increased GBV and associated challenges during the pandemic. The details on the implementation of the \$200 million will be announced shortly. This investment builds upon the earlier \$90 million in emergency funding and additional \$9.5 million distributed since March 2020 through Women's Shelters Canada (WSC), the Canadian Women's Foundation (CWF) and the Government of Québec who in turn distributed funds to local organizations.

This is a challenging time for our country. The situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve. We will continue to respond to the current situation and work towards our long-term goal of gender equality.

Thank you again for writing on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Briefing and Correspondence Unit
Corporate Secretariat
Women and Gender Equality Canada

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ _____

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

July 16, 2021

The Honourable Maryam Monsef
Minister for Women and Gender Equality
P.O. Box 8097, Station T CSC
Ottawa, ON K1G 3H6
minister-ministre@swc-cfc.gc.ca

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General
George Drew Bldg 18th Flr
25 Grosvenor St
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6
sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

The Honourable Jane McKenna
Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues
438 University Avenue, 7th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8
jane.mckenna@pc.ola.org

Dear Ministers Monsef, Jones and McKenna:

On behalf of Peel Regional Council, I am writing to highlight the recent rise in family and intimate partner violence (IPV) in Peel. To respond to this serious **issue, Peel's Community Safety and Well-being Plan**, adopted by Regional Council in October 2020, includes family violence as one of its key priorities recognizing the need for a collective response to address the challenges faced in our community.

At the July 8th Peel Regional Council meeting, Peel Regional Police Deputy Chief Nick Milinovich and Sharon Mayne Devine, CEO of Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin, delegated to Council about the growing demand for services provided by Safe Centre of Peel. As an integrated service hub, Safe Centre of Peel offers support and care to families facing abuse and violence in Peel by collaborating with 15 partner agencies. The number of women referred to Safe Centre of Peel has nearly tripled to 331 in the first three months of 2021/22 compared to 126 in the first three months of 2019/20 and these numbers are expected to increase as we transition out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of this growing demand in our community and limited resources to service referrals for individuals and families seeking support, a request was made of the Region for emergency assistance. In response, Peel Regional Council at its July 8th meeting, approved \$270,000 in emergency funding to support Safe Centre of Peel to deal with the mounting pressures for its services.

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.
Suite A, 5th Floor
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

The delegation at Council highlighted that current provincial and federal funding is insufficient to meet the growing demand for services for victims of family and intimate partner violence in Peel and may mean turning away an individual in their time of need. Therefore, Peel Regional Council calls on the provincial and federal governments to increase funding to Safe Centre of Peel and local **agencies aligned to the Family Violence Action Table of Peel's Community Safety and Well Being Plan**, with a goal to enhance system capacity and strengthen pathways to safety for victims of abuse. Additional community collaboration on a family and intimate partner violence campaign launched in November 2020 to increase awareness of this issue has heightened the need for increased resources to provide timely access to supports for victims of abuse. The ability of our community agencies to respond, greatly depends upon the resource capacity from available funds.

I look forward to hearing from your governments regarding your plans to provide long-term, sustainable support so that victims of family and intimate partner violence are safe and can quickly access the supports they need in their time of crisis. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at 905-791-7800 x4310. It would be a pleasure to hear from you.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca,
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Region of Peel

Att: Resolution regarding Agenda Item 8.4 – July 8, 2021

cc: Peel MPs
Peel MPPs
Sharon Mayne Devine, Executive Director, Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin
Nishan Duraiappah, Chief, Peel Regional Police
Nancy Polsinelli, Commissioner of Health Services

ITEM 8.4 - Regarding the Safe Centre of Peel Collaboration with the Intimate Partner Violence Unit, Peel Regional Police

Moved by Councillor Brown

Seconded by Councillor Santos

Whereas Family Violence is one of three key focus areas in Peel's Community Safety and Well-being Plan and a priority;

And whereas, as part of the Family Violence focus areas, there is a strategy to learn from and support the coordinated efforts within the violence against women sector and stakeholders working in family violence in response to COVID-19;

And whereas, the number of women referred to the Safe Centre of Peel have nearly tripled to 331 in the first three months of 2021/22 compared to 126 in the first three months of 2019/20 and these numbers are expected to increase as there is transition out of the COVID-19 pandemic;

And whereas, Safe Centre of Peel anticipates serving 1,324 clients in 2021/22 which is over two and half times more than the 506 clients served in 2019/20;

And whereas, there is insufficient provincial and federal funding to meet the growing demand for services for victims of family and intimate partner violence in the Region of Peel;

Therefore be it resolved, that interim, emergency funding for the Safe Centre of Peel, in the amount of \$270,000, financed from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve, to the end of this fiscal year 2021, be approved to increase the capacity of its partner organizations to meet the growing demand for services as a result of the integration of the Peel Regional Police Intimate Partner Violence Unit and the COVID-19 pandemic;

And further, that the Region of Peel work with Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan partners of the Family Violence Action Table on a community advocacy strategy that addresses the local service capacity challenges in Peel through a call for enhanced funding;

And further, that the Regional Chair, on behalf of Regional Council, write to the Solicitor General of Ontario, the Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues and the Federal Minister for Women and Gender Equality, to advocate on behalf of victims of family and intimate partner violence in the Region of Peel for increased funding to the Safe Centre of Peel to support the work of its partner organizations, and in support of agencies aligned to the Family Violence Action Table of Peel's Community Safety and Well Being Plan to enhance capacity and strengthen pathways to safety through access to services and supports for victims of abuse;

And further that a copy of the letter be sent to Peel-area MPs and MPPs.