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September 14, 2023

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

From: Stephanie Smith <Stephanie.Smith@mississauga.ca>

Sent: September 14, 2023 11:36 AM

To: ZZG-RegionalClerk <zzg-regionalclerk@peelregion.ca>

Subject: A motion to declare gender-based violence & intimate partner violence an epidemic in the City of Mississauga

CAUTION: EXTERNAL MAIL. DO NOT CLICK ON LINKS OR OPEN ATTACHMENTS YOU DO NOT TRUST.

The Corporation of the City of Mississauga at its meeting on September 13, 2023 adopted Resolution 0193-2023 regarding declaring gender-based violence & intimate partner violence an epidemic in the City of Mississauga.



Stephanie Smith

Supervisor, Legislative Services

905-615-3200 ext.3831

Stephanie.smith@mississauga.ca

[City of Mississauga](#) | Corporate Services Department,
Legislative Services Division, Secretariat and Access & Privacy Section

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MISSISSAUGA

RESOLUTION 0193-2023
adopted by the Council of
The Corporation of the City of Mississauga
at its meeting on September 13, 2023

0193-2023

Moved by: S. Dasko

Seconded by: B. Butt

WHEREAS gender-based violence is defined as violence or abuse perpetrated against a woman, girl or gender-diverse individual because of their gender, gender expression, gender identity or perceived gender; and

WHEREAS according to the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, in the last 5 years at least one woman or girl was killed every 48 hours in Canada

WHEREAS Renfrew County delivered 86 recommendations in a unanimous verdict on the deaths of three local women, who were killed by their former partner on a single morning in 2015; and

WHEREAS these 86 recommendations speak to oversight and accountability, system approaches, collaboration and communication, funding, education and training, measures addressing perpetrators of intimate partner violence (IPV), intervention, and safety; and

WHEREAS the number one recommendation put forward is to have the provincial government formally declare intimate partner violence as an epidemic; and

WHEREAS femicide continues to take place in Peel Region, with the most recent one taking place on July 31st when Argentina Fuentes was killed in Mississauga; and

WHEREAS a femicide took place between July 17 and 18 in Mississauga, when Pitch “Polly” Phunpa was killed in her Port Credit apartment; and

WHEREAS Peel Region has already had 6 femicides connected to the Region in 2023, with 4 of those femicides taking place in July alone; and

WHEREAS there have been 38 femicides in Ontario in the last 36 weeks; and

WHEREAS Canada does not currently include the term femicide in their criminal legislation; and

WHEREAS 75% of women reported abuse and conflict with a partner, spouse or parent as their top reason for their housing loss in Peel Region in 2021; and

WHEREAS Canada continues to experience a crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; and

WHEREAS Indigenous women are killed at seven times the rate of Non-Indigenous women; and

WHEREAS technology-facilitated gender-based violence is a growing problem, with 33% of young women between 15 and 24 experiencing unwanted behaviour online; and

WHEREAS all statistics are only scratching the surface and do not include unreported cases; and

WHEREAS the demand for support services increases as awareness increases; and

WHEREAS according to the Peel Regional 2021-2022 Snapshot published by the Peel Committee Against Women Abuse, Embrace: Agency to End Violence have seen a 27 percent increase in survivors accessing shelter programs between 2021 to 2022 in Peel Region; and

WHEREAS many of the inquiry's recommendations are either applicable to or could be adapted to the municipal or regional level of government; and

WHEREAS The Region of Peel has formally acknowledged family violence and intimate-partner violence a key area of focus in the Peel Community Safety and Well-Being Plan; and

WHEREAS on Feb 13, 2020, the Region of Peel Council unanimously supported a motion to work with the City of Brampton, City of Mississauga, Town of Caledon, Peel Regional Police and community organizations to develop and strategize a public education and awareness campaign to tackle the issue of domestic violence across the Region; and

WHEREAS the "It's Not Ok" and "Break the Silence" public awareness campaigns launched as of November 2020, annually for the past 3 years during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence; and

WHEREAS 41 municipalities across Ontario, including the City of Brampton and the Region of Peel have declared intimate partner violence and gender-based violence an epidemic; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada and Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada have recognized gender-based violence as an epidemic.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA:

1. Declare gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence an epidemic in Mississauga; and
2. Request that the Region of Peel's upcoming awareness campaign regarding gender-based and intimate partner violence include this declaration; and
3. Take a stand and advocate with the 41 municipalities and regions that have declared gender-based violence and/or intimate partner violence an epidemic to push the Province of Ontario to officially recognize it as such; and
4. Send a communication to Mississauga MPs and MPPs, signed by Mayor Bonnie Crombie on behalf of Council, requesting that they join their municipal counterparts in solidarity, asking for an epidemic of gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence to be declared at the Provincial and Federal levels; and

5. Send a communication to the Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General Canada, and the Prime Minister of Canada, signed by Mayor Bonnie Crombie on behalf of Council, advocating that Femicide be added as a term to the Criminal Code of Canada; and
6. Send a communication to Premier Ford and Prime Minister Trudeau, signed by Mayor Bonnie Crombie on behalf of Council, advocating to the provincial and federal governments to provide the appropriate supports necessary to address the epidemic; and
7. Send a copy of this Resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Recorded Vote	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mayor B. Crombie	X			
Councillor S. Dasko	X			
Councillor A. Tedjo	X			
Councillor C. Fonseca	X			
Councillor J. Kovac	X			
Councillor C. Parrish	X			
Councillor J. Horneck	X			
Councillor D. Damerla	X			
Councillor M. Mahoney	X			
Councillor M. Reid	X			
Councillor S. McFadden	X			
Councillor B. Butt	X			

Carried (12, 0, 0 Absent)