

## Motion

**Agenda Number:** 20.2

**Date:** February 12, 2026

---

**Moved by** Councillor Santos

**Seconded by** Councillor Hart

Whereas Peel Region continues to experience significant population growth while remaining structurally underfunded, leading to chronic underinvestment in housing and essential community supports;

And whereas, Peel faces a severe shortage of deeply affordable, supportive, and transitional housing, creating substantial barriers for residents—particularly survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV), gender-based violence (GBV) and human sex trafficking (HST);

And whereas, in 2024, Peel Regional Police responded to more than 16,100 family and intimate partner violence incidents—approximately 44 per day—acknowledging that reported cases represent only a fraction of the true prevalence. Additionally, police-reported incidents of human trafficking increased by about 60% in Peel from 1.39 incidents in 2023 to 2.23 incidents per 100,000 in 2024 – further cementing Peel as a hotspot for human trafficking in Canada;

And whereas, in 2024, Peel police-reported IPV charges showed that 78 percent of identified victims were women, illustrating the gendered nature and disproportionate impact of IPV in Peel. Furthermore, 93% of victims of police-reported incidents of human trafficking were women and girls, acknowledging that only about 6% of sexual crimes are actually reported to police;

And whereas, the connection between homelessness and gender-based violence is well-established, and Peel has seen a 12 per cent increase in women experiencing homelessness, with nearly one-third citing conflict or abuse by a partner, spouse, or parent/guardian as the cause of their housing loss, underscoring the need for integrated housing and safety supports;

And whereas, the Safe Centre of Peel supported more than 1,600 clients between 2024 and 2025, providing coordinated, trauma-informed wrap-around services for victims and their families, with housing, legal, and counselling supports identified as the most urgent needs to ensure safety, stability, and long-term recovery;

And whereas, Regional Council has declared IPV an epidemic in Peel, and the Province of Ontario has recognized IPV/GBV as endemic, reflecting that it is both endemic due to longstanding, systemic patterns of violence, and epidemic due to escalating rates that require urgent, coordinated action;

And whereas, Peel Region continues to advance priorities related to community safety, housing stability, and violence prevention, through Peel's Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan, Peel's Housing and Homelessness Plan and related initiatives;

And whereas, the annual 'Break the Silence' campaign, an initiative under Peel's Community Safety and Well-being Plan, is entering its seventh year, and while raising awareness remains essential, addressing the persistent gaps in housing supports is critical to advancing meaningful action and enabling women to safely leave abusive relationships;

And whereas, the proposed Break the Cycle Summit: Centering Housing Solutions in Response to Gender-Based Violence in Peel will bring together cross-sector partners and individuals with lived experience to co-design an evidence-informed, Peel-specific continuum of housing solutions and supports;

And whereas, Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU), through its Brampton - based medical school and community- focused approach to healthcare, has offered its facility and facilitation services to support the delivery of the Break the Cycle Summit: Centering Housing Solutions in Response to Gender-Based Violence in Peel;

Now therefore be it resolved:

1. That the purpose, scope, and intended outcomes of the proposed Break the Cycle Summit: Centering Housing Solutions in Response to Gender-Based Violence in Peel, be endorsed, including:
  - a. Bringing together lived experience and cross-sector expertise to co-design a continuum of housing solutions and wrap-around supports to support survivors of GBV/IPV, and HST and strengthen prevention efforts;
  - b. Advancing coordinated regional strategies aligned with Peel's CSWB Plan, Peel's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, Peel's Strategy to Address Human Sex Trafficking, and the Region's IPV epidemic response;
  - c. Identifying actionable regional, provincial, and community pathways and solutions to reduce housing barriers and enhance safety for survivors; and
2. That Regional staff, in collaboration with community and cross-sector partners, be directed to lead the planning and delivery of the Break the Cycle Summit: Centering Housing Solutions in response to Gender-Based Violence in Peel, ensuring alignment with Peel's Community Safety and Well Being Plan and related strategic priorities; and
3. That the offer from Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) to host be supported and integrated into the planning and delivery of the Break the Cycle Summit: Centering Housing Solutions in response to Gender-Based Violence in Peel; and
4. That Regional Council advocate to Peel area Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) for increased provincial and federal investment to meet urgent housing, shelter, and safety needs, including those affecting survivors of GBV, IPV, and HST; and
5. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Peel area MPs and MPPs, the Federal Minister of Women and Gender Equality; and Provincial Ministers of Children, Community and Social Services, the Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and relevant ministry staff for awareness and invitation to the Summit; and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and
6. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the City of Brampton, City of Mississauga, and the Town of Caledon for awareness and invitation to the Summit.