



October 25, 2024

Honourable Mark Holland  
MP, Ajax  
100 Old Kingston Rd  
Ajax, ON L1T 2Z5

Dear Minister Holland:

**RE: Request Regarding Enhancing Shelter Support for Women and Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence, Our File: C00**

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**The Regional Municipality of Durham**

Corporate Services  
Department –  
Legislative Services  
Division

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**Alexander Harras  
M.P.A.  
Director of  
Legislative Services  
& Regional Clerk**

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on October 23, 2024, passed the following resolution:

“Whereas there is a nationwide intimate partner violence (IPV) crisis, in which more than 4 in 10 (6.2 million) women and 1 in 3 men have experienced intimate partner violence, and rates increased 19% between 2014 and 2022;

Whereas 78% of victims of police-reported intimate partner violence in 2022 were women and girls, and in 2019 rates were 3.5 times higher among women than men;

Whereas intimate partner violence, in 2009, was estimated to cost \$7.4 billion annually to the public system, impacting municipal budgets for public safety and housing;

Whereas rural, remote, and northern communities experience disproportionate rates of IPV, with risk of IPV 75% higher for women in rural communities than women in urban communities, and 73% of survivors in rural communities at high risk of being in severe or extreme danger of being killed;

Whereas Indigenous women are 3 times more likely to experience IPV than non-Indigenous women, and are 8 times more likely to be murdered by intimate partners than non-Indigenous women, because of the intersections between colonialism, racism, and misogyny;

Whereas IPV is a phenomenon which affects Black and racialized women, women with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people disproportionately;

Whereas women’s shelters nationwide consistently struggle with permanent funding to provide essential transitional, family, and permanent housing solutions for women fleeing IPV, and as COVID-oriented funding expires and piecemeal efforts to fund women’s

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shelter systems result in women experiencing IPV being continually at risk;

Whereas the federal government has made gender-based violence (GBV) and IPV priorities across ministries and agencies through the National Strategy to Address Gender-Based Violence and the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence, signing bilateral agreements with provinces and territories, but gaps remain;

Now therefore be it resolved:

- A) That the Regional Municipality of Durham calls on the federal government to create a permanent fund, open to local governments and community organizations, for the construction of shelters and transitional housing for women and survivors of intimate partner violence, including housing appropriate for Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and persons with disabilities, with a dedicated rural, remote, and northern (RRN) stream;
- B) That the Regional Municipality of Durham calls on the federal government to work with the provinces and territories to provide permanent operational funding, open to local governments and community organizations, for shelters, transitional housing, and supportive housing for women and survivors of intimate partner violence, including Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and persons with disabilities; and
- C) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Durham Region Federal MPs, and relevant ministers, Provincial MPPs and relevant ministers, local area municipalities and local non-profits supporting victims of IPV.”

*Alexander Harras*

Alexander Harras,  
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk

AH/sd

- c: J. Jivano, MP, Durham  
J. Schmale, MP, Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock  
P. Lawrence, MP, Northumberland/ Peterborough South  
C. Carrie, MP, Oshawa  
J. O'Connell, MP, Pickering/Uxbridge  
R. Turnbull, MP, Whitby  
Hon. T. McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service  
Delivery, MPP, Durham  
P. Barnes, MPP, Ajax

L. Scott, MPP, Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock  
D. Piccini, MPP, Northumberland/Peterborough South  
J. French, MPP, Oshawa  
P. Bethlenfalvy, MPP, Pickering/Uxbridge  
L. Coe, MPP, Whitby  
J. Grossi, Clerk, Town of Ajax  
F. Lamanna, Clerk, Township of Brock  
J. Gallagher, Clerk, Municipality of Clarington  
M. Medeiros, Clerk, City of Oshawa  
S. Cassel, Clerk, City of Pickering  
R. Walton, Clerk, Township of Scugog  
D. Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge  
C. Harris, Clerk, Town of Whitby  
I. Khalaf, Service Director, Durham Children's Aid Society  
L. Fernandes-Heaslip, Community Representative, Brock  
Community Health Centre  
R. Spigarelli, Manager, Safety Network  
E. Pierce, Executive Director, Catholic Family Services Durham  
J. Clearwater, VAW Counsellor, Nijkiwendidaa  
Anishnaabekwewag Services Circle  
A. Crawford, Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiyag Child & Family  
Services  
K. Sansom, Durham Mental Health  
E. Enyolu, Executive Director, Women's Multi-Cultural Resource  
and Counselling Centre  
G. Broderick, Executive Director, Durham Rape Crisis Centre  
L. Burch, Executive Director, Bethesda House  
V. Falcon, Executive Director, Herizon House  
S. McCormack, Executive Director, Denise House  
S. Groen, Executive Director, Y's WISH Shelter  
K. Sansom, Durham Housing  
B. Bain, Executive Director, Frontenac Youth Services  
K. MacNeil, Executive Director, Victim Services Durham Region  
C. Barkwell, Executive Director, Luke's Place  
J. St. Louis, Case Manager, Canadian Mental Health Association  
M. Toma, Supervisor, Community Development Council of  
Durham  
N. Crow, Executive Director, Durham Family Court Clinic  
J. MacKinnon, Durham Elder Abuse Network  
B. Porter, Coordinator, The Violence Prevention Coordinating  
Council of Durham