



October 25, 2024

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

Dear Minister Holland:

RE: Request Regarding Harassment of Elected Local Government Officials, Our File: C00

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services
Division

605 Rossland Rd. E.
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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 in recent years, there has been an alarming rise in incidents of harassment, intimidation and acts of violence aimed at elected local government officials, compounding the already strenuous work conditions faced by many local leaders and hindering their retention;

Whereas women, particularly Black and racialized women, are disproportionately targeted by violence and harassment toward elected officials;

Whereas increasing the number of elected women, Black and racialized, and 2SLGBTQIA+ representatives in Canada is a priority for local governments and the federal government;

Whereas severe abuse, both online and in-person, has the potential to discourage underrepresented groups from joining and remaining engaged in local politics, limiting the diversity of opinion needed in healthy democracies;

Whereas all elected officials have an ability to show leadership on this issue by modeling behaviour, and should always strive to elevate debate, embrace differences of opinion, disagree respectfully and focus on issues of policy and substance;

Now therefore be it resolved:

- A) That the Regional Municipality of Durham request that the federal government work with provinces, territories, and local governments, including through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to identify and implement measures to protect elected local government officials, their family members, and staff – especially women, members of Black and racialized communities, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, persons with

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disabilities, and Indigenous people – from harassment, intimidation, and threats, thereby reinforcing a unified front to safeguard democracy;

- B) That the Region of Durham calls on all elected officials of all orders of government to lead by example, demonstrating civility and mutual respect for their political counterparts; and
- C) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Durham Region Federal MPs, Provincial MPPs, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario and local area municipalities.”

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
- P. Barnes, MPP, Ajax
- Hon. T. McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service
Delivery, MPP, Durham
- 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
- Hon. P. Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- J.D. Wake, Integrity Commissioner of Ontario
- 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