

Notice of Motion – August 22, 2023

Re: Declaring Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) an epidemic

Moved By: Councillor Hamilton

Seconded: Councillor Kimpson

WHEREAS the safety of our community and its members is of extreme importance to every single Cambridge resident, as well as to Cambridge Council;

WHEREAS intimate partner violence, often referred to as domestic violence, means any use of physical or sexual force, actual or threatened in an intimate relationship, including emotional and/or psychological abuse or harassing behaviour, and persons of any gender or sex can be victims of intimate partner violence;

WHEREAS Waterloo Region is experiencing a rise in intimate partner violence (IPV) and domestic violence during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Waterloo Region Police Service (WRPS) experiences an average of 17 calls related to IPV per day, with a total of 6,158 calls in 2022 and 66,000 calls for service in total, despite the fact that 70% of IPV incidents go unreported due to feelings of shame, fear, and secrecy;

WHEREAS the WRPS has laid more than 35,000 charges related to IPV, or an average of 3500 per year;

WHEREAS in 2022, five out of the six homicides in Waterloo Region stemmed from IPV and domestic violence, with over 3,800 criminal charges issued by WRPS in relation to IPV;

WHEREAS between 2012 and 2022, the WRPS received a total of 20,870 calls related to IPV in Cambridge, and laid a total of 11,020 charges related to IPV in Cambridge;

WHEREAS Indigenous women are approximately 3.5 times more likely to experience some form of intimate partner violence than non-Indigenous women, and the homicide rate for Indigenous women and girls is approximately 6 times higher than for non-Indigenous women and girls, and Indigenous women are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than any other women in Canada, and 16 times more likely than white women;

WHEREAS violence against women costs the national justice system, health care systems, social services agencies and municipalities billions of dollars per year, and municipalities are on the front lines in addressing gender-based violence;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Cambridge joins over 30 other Ontario municipalities in supporting the recommendation #1 from the Culleton, Kuzyk and Warmerdam Inquest (CKW Inquest) in formally declaring intimate partner violence (IPV)

as an epidemic;

AND THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to declare that intimate partner violence and violence against women is an epidemic, in accordance with Recommendation #1 of the C.K.W. Inquest;

AND THAT Cambridge recommends that Waterloo Regional Council integrates intimate partner violence into the Region's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, in accordance with Recommendation #10 of the C.K.W. Inquest, and set out gender based violence/intimate partner violence as a separate priority within the plan;

AND FURTHER THAT the City Clerk be directed to send a copy of this motion to the Region of Waterloo, Province of Ontario, The Right Honorable Prime Minister, The Right Honorable Members of Parliament, The Right Honorable Provincial Members of Parliament, United Nations, and all Ontario Municipalities.