

# ***Declaring Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic in the City of Cambridge***

*Presented by members of the Family Violence Project*

## ***The Family Violence Project of Waterloo Region***

- Launched in 2006
- 12 partner agencies
- Collaboration focused on reducing and preventing IPV
- **Speakers:**

Jennifer Hutton      CEO Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region

Amy Hachborn      S/Sgt. WRPS – Intimate Partner Violence Unit

Christine Taylor      Manager of Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Treatment Centre –  
St. Mary's General Hospital

Lisa Akey      Director of Counselling, Camino Wellbeing and Mental Health

## **C.K.W. Inquest**

- Occurred September, 22, 2015
- Deaths of Carol CULLETON, Anastasia KUZYK and Nathalie WARMERDAM
- Common intimate partner
- Inquest held June 2022
- Testimony from witnesses, VAW workers, experts and survivors
- 86 recommendations delivered to the Government of Ontario



## **IPV in City of Cambridge**

### **Waterloo Regional Police Service – 2012-2022**

- Average 20,870 calls for service = 2,087 + calls per year
- Average almost 6 calls per day
- 11,020 charges laid = average of 1,102 per year
- 30% of total charges laid for IPV in Waterloo Region
- 12 victims of Homicide, Attempt Homicide and Manslaughter

## **Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region – 2021-2022**

- 284 clients in Regional outreach program were from Cambridge
- 115 clients stayed at Haven House
- 90 children stayed at Have House

**\*\*\*Crisis support 519-742-5894 (Kitchener/Waterloo) and 519-653-2422 (Cambridge)\*\*\***

## **Camino Wellbeing and Mental Health**

- Camino/Counselling Collaborative support more than 1800 affected by IPV per year
- Family and relationship conflict:
  - Dramatic increase in request for counselling since 2020
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> most reason people seek counselling (after anxiety and depression)
- 33% of IPV incidents witnessed by children
- Long term health & emotional consequences
- Potential for cycle of intergenerational violence

## **Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centre**

- Since 2020, marked increase in the levels of violence and injury to victims attending hospital
- Prior to 2020, assault with a weapon, strangulation or forcible confinement, not commonplace. Now routine.
- January 2022 - June 2023 = 107 cases of acute IPV, 234 cases of sexual violence
- January 2022 - June 2023 = 140 IPV and 50 sexual violence survivors accessed counselling

**\*\*\* 30-70% of victims do NOT seek help \*\*\***

## **Recommendation #1 – IPV Declared an Epidemic**

**“The Government of Ontario should formally declare intimate partner violence as an epidemic”**

- **Epidemic:** Affecting or tending to affect a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, community, or region at the same time (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)
- Lanark County Council – December 21, 2022
- 45+ municipalities – City of Ottawa, Durham Region, Burlington City Council, Peel Region, City of Toronto, City of Hamilton, City of Kitchener



## ***Reasons to Declare***

- **Reminder to victims of IPV and families – City Council here to support**
- **Notice to offenders – they will be held accountable**
- **Encouragement to those who work in IPV and VAW field**
- **City of Cambridge continues its tradition of leadership**
- **No cost, but immense value – local conversation, provincial movement**

*Intimate Partner Violence thrives in shadow and silence. Help us bring it  
Help us bring it into the light by joining your voice with ours as we  
ours as we advocate for change*

***Thank you!***