

Motion regarding Enhancing Shelter Supports for Women and Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Moved by: Councillor Shahid

Seconded by: Councillor Roy

That we recommend to Regional Council:

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

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; and

- 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.