



City of
Peterborough

Office of the City Clerk, City Hall
500 George Street North
Peterborough, Ontario
K9H 3R9

December 11, 2025

Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
MP Emma Harrison;
MPP Dave Smith;
Dr. Piggott, Medical Officer of Health;
Stuart Betts, Peterborough Police Chief;
Chris Snetsinger, Peterborough Fire Chief;
Patricia Bromfield, Peterborough EMS Chief;
All Local School Board Chairs;
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Federation of Canadian Municipalities; and
All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Elect Respect

The following resolution, adopted by City Council at their meeting on November 3, 2025, is forwarded for your information:

Whereas democracy is healthy when everyone is able to participate fully and safely and contribute to the well-being of their community; and

Whereas we are witnessing the dissolution of democratic discourse and respectful debate across all levels of government and in neighbouring jurisdictions; and

Whereas Ontario's municipally elected officials and municipal staff are dealing with increasingly hostile, unsafe work environments facing threats and harassment; and

Whereas social media platforms have exacerbated disrespectful dialogue, negative commentary, and toxic engagement which disincentivizes individuals, especially women and candidates from diverse backgrounds from running for office; and

Whereas better decisions are made when democracy is respectful and constructive and the voices of diverse genders, identities, ethnicities, races, sexual orientation, ages and abilities are heard and represented around municipal council tables; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified concerning trends with fewer people voting in local elections and running for municipal office; and

Whereas in 2024, female elected representatives from across Halton formed a group called H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives) which pledged to speak out against



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harassment and negativity in politics and called on elected officials to uphold the highest standards of conduct; and

Whereas H.E.R. Halton has launched a campaign called Elect Respect to promote the importance of healthy democracy and safe, inclusive, respectful work environments for all elected officials and municipal staff that encourages individuals to participate in the political process.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of Peterborough supports the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:

- **Treat others with respect in all spaces—public, private, and online**
- **Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks,**
- **Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks,**
- **Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office,**
- **Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats, and**
- **Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct; and**

Be It Further Resolved That the City of Peterborough calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at www.electrespect.ca; and

Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be sent to the:

Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, MP Emma Harrison, MPP Dave Smith, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of Ontario Rob Flack, the Peterborough Police Chief, Peterborough Fire Chief, Peterborough EMS Chief, Medical Officer of Health, all local school board chairs and all Ontario Municipalities.

AND Be It Further Resolved That the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisor be engaged in the implementation and communication of this initiative, and that staff explore opportunities to better integrate their expertise into Council's ongoing efforts to promote a safe, inclusive, and respectful civic environment

Sincerely,


John Kennedy,
City Clerk