



The Corporation of The Township of The Archipelago  
Council Meeting

Agenda Number: 15.4.

Resolution Number 23-169

Title: Request to Province to declare gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic in Ontario - Resolution to Support

Date: Friday, October 13, 2023

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Moved by: Councillor Lundy

Seconded by: Councillor Cade Fraser

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Township of The Archipelago receives and supports the Town of Aurora's resolution declaring gender-based and intimate partner violence an epidemic in the Province of Ontario; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada (Hon. Justin Trudeau), the Premier of Ontario (Hon. Doug Ford), Leaders of Opposition Parties, Parry Sound-Muskoka MP (Hon. Scott Aitchison), Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP (Hon. Graydon Smith), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried



Legislative Services  
Michael de Rond  
905-726-4771  
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Town of Aurora  
100 John West Way, Box 1000  
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

September 28, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Premier's Office, Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

**Delivered by email**  
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of September 26, 2023  
Motion 10.2 - Mayor Mrakas; Re: Gender-Based and Intimate Partner Violence  
Epidemic**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on September 26, 2023, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

**Whereas 42 municipalities and regions including OBCM (Ontario Big City Mayors) and MARCO (Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario) members Ajax, Brampton, Burlington, Clarington, Hamilton, London, Oakville, Ottawa, Pickering, Whitby, Toronto, and Windsor, along with Peel, Durham and Halton Regions as well as Lanark County, Essex County and Renfrew County across Ontario have declared a gender-based violence and/or intimate partner violence epidemic (as of August 18, 2023); and**

**Whereas on August 16, 2023, Justice Minister Arif Virani described gender-based violence as "an epidemic" in the federal government's formal response to a coroner's inquest, also stating that his government is committed to ending the gender-based violence epidemic "in all its forms, and is working to address any gaps in the Criminal Code to ensure a robust justice system response"; and**

**Whereas by declaring gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic, the Town of Aurora can join the growing number of municipalities and regions in demanding action from all levels of government to address this growing epidemic; and**

**Whereas the incidences of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence increased exponentially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and has not decreased, while funding to provide the growing demand of services and support**

**for victims and survivors of intimate partner and gender-based violence has not kept pace;**

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora declare gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic; and**
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora recommend that gender-based violence and intimate partner violence be declared an epidemic in the Province of Ontario; and**
- 3. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora Requests That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities and regions in Ontario declare a gender-based and intimate partner violence epidemic across the country; and**
- 4. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora Requests That the provincial and federal governments enact the additional 85 recommendations from the inquest into the 2015 murders of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam in Renfrew County, Ontario, which provide a roadmap to preventing intimate partner violence from escalating to femicide; and**
- 5. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora Requests That the federal government starts this enactment by adding the word Femicide as a term to the Criminal Code of Canada; and**
- 6. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora Requests That the provincial and federal governments provide the necessary support to municipalities, regions, and their emergency and social services to meaningfully address the gender-based violence and intimate partner violence epidemic.**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Yours sincerely,



Michael de Rond

Town Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

MdR/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
Leah Taylor Roy, MP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill  
Tony Van Bynen, MP Newmarket—Aurora  
Hon. Michael Parsa, MPP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill  
Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
All Ontario Municipalities



## 10. Motions

### 10.2 Mayor Mrakas; Re: Gender-Based and Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic

**Moved by** Councillor Gilliland

**Seconded by** Councillor Gallo

Whereas 42 municipalities and regions including OBCM (Ontario Big City Mayors) and MARCO (Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario) members Ajax, Brampton, Burlington, Clarington, Hamilton, London, Oakville, Ottawa, Pickering, Whitby, Toronto, and Windsor, along with Peel, Durham and Halton Regions as well as Lanark County, Essex County and Renfrew County across Ontario have declared a gender-based violence and/or intimate partner violence epidemic (as of August 18, 2023); and

Whereas on August 16, 2023, Justice Minister Arif Virani described gender-based violence as “an epidemic” in the federal government’s formal response to a coroner’s inquest, also stating that his government is committed to ending the gender-based violence epidemic “in all its forms, and is working to address any gaps in the Criminal Code to ensure a robust justice system response”; and

Whereas by declaring gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic, the Town of Aurora can join the growing number of municipalities and regions in demanding action from all levels of government to address this growing epidemic; and

Whereas the incidences of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence increased exponentially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and has not decreased, while funding to provide the growing demand of services and support for victims and survivors of intimate partner and gender-based violence has not kept pace;

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6. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora Requests That the provincial and federal governments provide the necessary support to municipalities, regions, and their emergency and social services to meaningfully address the gender-based violence and intimate partner violence epidemic.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

**Carried (7 to 0)**