



March 8, 2024

Mr. Rick Byers, MPP  
Bruce Grey Owen Sound  
345 8<sup>th</sup> Street E, Suite 104  
Owen Sound, ON  
N4K 1L3

Ms. Lisa Thompson, MPP  
Huron-Bruce  
807 Queen St., Unit 3, PO Box 834  
Kincardine, ON  
N2Z 2Y2

Mr. Brian Saunderson, MPP  
Simcoe-Grey  
180 Parsons Road, Suite 28  
Alliston, ON  
L9R 1E8

Dear Mr. Byers, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Saunderson,

**Re: Please Strengthen Current Municipal Anti-Harassment Penalties NOW**

On behalf of electHER Now, a non-partisan organization working toward gender parity in the political landscape, we are requesting that the Municipal Act be amended to protect not just women, but all elected to municipal office and those who work with elected officials when individuals have violated workplace violence or harassment policies.

Since 2021 when the Ontario Government announced they had begun the process of gathering input about the issue there has been a rising trend in the reporting and the degree of abuse.

At electHER Now, we are working hard to encourage more women to run for office and support them in their municipal political journey. We would welcome the opportunity to have a conversation with you to discuss strategies and options to strengthen the Municipal Act and stop Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders.

Please connect with us at [electhernowadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:electhernowadvocate@gmail.com) to arrange a meeting date and time.

Thank you,

**Carol Merton**

Co-Founder, electHER Now  
2022-2026 Councillor  
Municipality of Owen Sound

**Laura Wood**

Co-Founder, electHER Now  
Community Volunteer

**Jennifer Shaw**

Advisory Council, electHER Now  
2022-2026 Deputy Mayor  
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

c.c. All 17 municipalities in Grey and Wardens of Bruce and Wardens Grey County and Bruce County

Website: [electhernow.ca](http://electhernow.ca) Email: [electhernowadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:electhernowadvocate@gmail.com)