

Mayor Luke Charbonneau and Council
Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C0

November 4th, 2024.

Dear Mayor and Council

I am writing on behalf of CFUW Southport's 110+ members regarding the motion before you requesting that you declare an epidemic of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) (often used interchangeably with Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)). On November 27th, 2023, I stood before you to speak about our annual December 6th Vigil, which is the **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**, now in its 34th year. I noted the growing number of Ontario municipalities, now over 100, that have enacted such declarations, including our neighbouring municipality, Kincardine. In January 2024, this Council endorsed Goderich's declaration, but until now with the motion put forward by Councillor Cheryl Grace, the Town of Saugeen Shores has not considered its own declaration.

You may also be aware that, on April 10th of this year, the Government of Ontario supported Bill 173, the Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, brought by MPPs Kristyn Wong-Tam and Lisa Gretzky. However, the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Justice for further study, and there it remains while the number of incidents of IPV and femicide continues to grow. Shelters are challenged to provide enough space and support. Children are exposed to devastating life-long impacts. Bill 173 and all municipal declarations send a message of support to victims and their families, telling them they have been heard and believed, and that their community cares for them and condemns violence. Victims in our community deserve to hear that message too.

CFUW Southport's members are supportive of the motion before Council. We encourage you to pass the declaration and use all means to publicize this decision. Only by highlighting this concern can we hope to raise awareness to address the growing incidence of IPV in our community, in our province and across our country.

We also invite members of Council and staff to attend the 34th annual Vigil to mark the **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women** at noon at Coulter Parkette on December 6th. We request that you lower Town flags and promote this event, as you have done for many years—your leadership as individuals and as a Council makes a significant difference.

Sincerely

Odette Bartnicki

Odette Bartnicki, M.A.Ed.
President, CFUW Southport

Colleen Morgenroth

Colleen Morgenroth
Co-Chair, Vigil Committee

Janice Lace

Janice Lace
Co-Chair, Vigil Committee

cc: Chief Kevin Zettel, SSPS
Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce Lisa.Thompsonco@pc.ola.org
Marit Stiles, Leader NDP MStiles-CO@ndp.on.ca
Bonnie Crombie, Leader LP) info@ontaarioliberal.ca
Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party mschreiner@ola.org
Saugeen Times/Sandy Lindsey Saugeentimes1@hotmail.com
Shoreline Beacon/Frances Learmont Shorelinebeacon.news@sunmedia.ca
Shoreline Scoop brett@shorelinescoop.com