

## IPV Resolution - Saugeen Shores

WHEREAS more than 4 in 10 Canadian women have experienced some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and 1 in 10 experience it almost daily<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS while one-third of men have also experienced intimate partner violence, women disproportionately experience the most severe forms. According to the Government of Canada, between 2014 and 2019 there were 497 cases of intimate partner homicide nationally and 80% of the victims were women; <sup>2</sup> and

WHEREAS rates of intimate partner violence are nationally 75 per cent higher for rural women compared to urban women; <sup>3</sup> and

WHEREAS although IPV is not a pathogen, it is appropriate to label IPV as epidemic because it has ripple effects causing future poor health outcomes for affected victims and their families, and which negatively affect community health, policing and social services resources;<sup>4</sup> and

WHEREAS in Saugeen Shores, police-reported Domestic Violence incidents increased between 2018/04/01 to 2024/04/01 by an average of 55.4%<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS in Bruce and Grey Counties, domestic violence calls between 2018 to 2020 to police increased by 133%<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS members of the Saugeen Shores Police have been enrolled in the Collaborative Police Action on Intimate Partner Violence course, training which improves their policy and action to keep individuals, families and communities safe; and

WHEREAS all programs in the Grey-Bruce Health Unit, especially the clinical ones, have components to identify and report any type of violence, including IPV; and several family-based programs actively and proactively work with individuals and families on early identification and prevention of IPV, as well as the Unit's collaboration with Bruce Grey Child and Family Services and police services, and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/210426/dq210426b-eng.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.amo.on.ca/sites/default/files/assets/DOCUMENTS/Reports/2024/20240729\\_AMO\\_Submission\\_to\\_SC\\_Justice\\_Policy\\_on\\_Bill\\_173%2C\\_Intimate\\_Partner\\_Violence\\_Epidemic\\_Act%2C\\_2024\\_RPT.pdf](https://www.amo.on.ca/sites/default/files/assets/DOCUMENTS/Reports/2024/20240729_AMO_Submission_to_SC_Justice_Policy_on_Bill_173%2C_Intimate_Partner_Violence_Epidemic_Act%2C_2024_RPT.pdf), p. 1

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.tvo.org/article/why-ontario-should-declare-intimate-partner-violence-an-epidemic>; *rural women are more susceptible because of factors like greater isolation, a lack of public transportation and affordable housing*

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.tvo.org/article/why-ontario-should-declare-intimate-partner-violence-an-epidemic>

<sup>5</sup> Data from Saugeen Shores Police Services, number of Domestic Violence incidents in Saugeen Shores from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2024; Tables with complete # of incidents are attached including Police DV, Sexual Violence, and Human Trafficking incidents, and Domestic Homicides

<sup>6</sup> <http://violencepreventiongreybruce.com/initiatives/snapshot-2018/>

WHEREAS On January 8, 2024, Saugeen Shores Council supported the Town of Goderich's resolution to Declare Intimate Partner Violence as an Epidemic, and

WHEREAS it is critical for victims, family members, survivors and others in our community to see Saugeen Shores' commitment to solve the problem of IPV by, among other actions, recognizing its severity.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Saugeen Shores recognizes the issues of intimate partner violence in rural communities as serious to the health and wellness of local families, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Saugeen Shores is committed to engaging with community partners to educate and support our residents about the seriousness of intimate partner violence in our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Saugeen Shores calls on the Standing Committee of Justice to hold hearings in the fall of 2024 on Bill 173, The Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Saugeen Shores calls on the Province of Ontario to pass and implement Bill 173, The Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act; and

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Standing Committee on Justice -Clerk, Thushitha Kobikrishna ([scjp@ola.org](mailto:scjp@ola.org)); Chair Lorne Coe, Standing Committee on Justice ([lorne.Coe@pc.ola.org](mailto:lorne.Coe@pc.ola.org)); Premier Doug Ford; Minister of Health Sylvia Jones; Attorney General Doug Downey; Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs; Grey Bruce Medical Officer, Dr. Ian Arra; Chief Kevin Zettel, Saugeen Shores Police Services