

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is an Epidemic Throughout Ontario

CFUW Ontario Council Advocacy Initiative Toolkit



This toolkit is dedicated to all the women and children whose lives have been cut short or irrevocably altered due to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and to those who still live in fear and under the threat of violence.

And to Erin Lee and Pamela Cross for all their tireless work – in gratitude.

“Men are afraid that women will laugh at them. Women are afraid that men will kill them.” Attributed to Margaret Atwood

November 25th, 2023

Advocacy Committee, CFUW Ontario Council

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Note to Reader: The contents of this document have sometimes been taken verbatim from the noted source document. This toolkit is not meant to be original work, rather a compilation of information from various sources.

1.0 Policy Allowing CFUW to Advocate for Establishing 'IPV is an Epidemic' throughout Ontario

Prevention of Violence against Women 1992 - CFUW Nepean, CFUW Status of Women and Human Rights Committee

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Federal, provincial and territorial governments to take appropriate steps to improve measures to prevent violence against women.

2.0 Quick Action (Summary) Sheet

Goal: To have every one of the 444 municipalities throughout Ontario declare 'Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is An Epidemic'.

CFUW Policy: RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Federal, provincial and territorial governments to take appropriate steps to improve measures to prevent violence against women.

IPV Defined: As defined by the UN, domestic abuse, also called "domestic violence" or "intimate partner violence", can be defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse includes physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This takes in any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound someone.

Rationale for Toolkit: Every six days, in Canada, a woman is killed by a current or past intimate partner. Children of these relationships are also at risk for violence and murder. The CKW Inquest Jury Recommendation #1 recommended that the Province of Ontario declare IPV an epidemic. The provincial government has refused to do so. CFUW Ontario Council Clubs are in a unique position to help achieve the stated goal. This toolkit provides the means for Clubs to take action to make this goal a reality.

Historical Milestones/Background:

Global

- 1991 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence – campaign started by Women’s Global Leadership Institute
- 1992 Convention of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- 1994 Commission on Human Rights condemns gender-based violence.
- 2008 November 25th - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women founded.

Canada and Ontario

- 1988 National Family Violence Initiative
- 2000 December: Luke’s Place (Ontario) founded following the tragic death of Luke, a 3 ½ year old Durham Ontario boy, killed by his father during first unsupervised access visit, in 1997.
- 2022 June: (Ontario) Inquest into the Deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, Natalie Warmerdam (CKW): 86 Jury Recommendations, 80 of these directed at the Ontario Government, the first of which is **Formally declare intimate partner violence as an epidemic.**
- 2022 Lanark County becomes the first in Ontario to declare IPV as an epidemic as a result of Erin Lee’s presentation to the Community Services Committee of the Lanark County Council (Ms. Lee is the Executive Director of Lanark County Interval House and Community Support).
- 2022 Following publication of CKW Inquest Jury recommendations, Ontario government refuses to declare IPV an epidemic, stating epidemics refer to infectious or communicable diseases.
- 2022 Canada’s Justice Minister and Attorney General agrees with first recommendation (amongst others) of the CKW Inquest Jury Recommendations.

Historical Milestones/Background (continued):

2022/2023

Luke's Place publishes Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam (CKW) Inquest Advocacy Toolkit.

2023 March: Turning the Tide Together: Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Report; 130 recommendations. Executive Summary: *We need to accept that those who perpetrate mass casualties often have unaddressed histories of gender-based, intimate partner, or family violence – which means that tackling those forms of violence must be an urgent priority.*

2023 November 25th – Launch of CFUW Ontario Council's 'Intimate Partner Violence is an Epidemic throughout Ontario' Toolkit

Toolkit

Increase Awareness and Provide Education Surrounding IPV

Familiarise yourself, your Club and your public regarding IPV through reading the CKW Inquest Jury Recommendations, the Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Report Executive Report, watching documentaries, movies and short videos on YouTube, engaging local women's shelters' experts and local police detachments in presentations to your Club and the general public.

Develop Relationships with Local Decision Makers and Influencers

Identify key decision makers and influencers at the level of government you are aiming your advocacy.

Develop a strategy to connect with the decision makes and influencers (who from your Club will take the lead and how will the communication be undertaken).

Engage with decision makers and influencers (know where they stand on the issue) through meetings and letter writing campaigns.

Influence the public for support for this initiative through open general meetings of your Club on the topic of IPV, write op-eds, use social media.

Make the 'Ask'

Meet with your local government and ask them to declare 'IPV is an Epidemic'.

Follow up with a presentation to local government based on local and Ontario data, the CKW Inquest Jury Recommendations and the Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Report.

3.0 Background

3.1 United Nations (UN)

In **1992**, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee in its General Recommendation No. 19 asserted that **violence against women is a form of discrimination**, directed towards a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. This violence seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

In December **1993**, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women recognized that violence against women violates women's rights and fundamental freedoms, and called on states and the international community to work toward the eradication of violence against women.

The same year, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action recognized that the elimination of violence against women in public and private life is a human rights obligation. The then **Commission on Human Rights condemned gender-based violence for the first time in 1994** and the same year appointed a Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/women/gender-based-violence-against-women-and-girls>

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, November 25th, led by the UN Secretary-General and UN Women since 2008, aims to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls around the world, calling for global action to increase awareness, promote advocacy and create opportunities for discussion on challenges and solutions.



What is intimate partner violence?

The UN defines intimate partner violence as any behaviour by a current or former partner or spouse that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm. This is one of the most common forms of violence experienced by women globally.

Some Fast Facts from UN Women

1 in 3: Worldwide, 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence — mostly by an intimate partner. When accounting for sexual harassment, this figure is even higher.

3 in 5: Worldwide, almost 3 in 5 women killed were killed by their partners or family in 2017.

<https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/infographic/violenceagainstwomen/en/index.html#intimate-3>

The United Nations conflates domestic violence and intimate partner violence.

As defined by the UN, **domestic abuse**, also called "domestic violence" or "**intimate partner violence**", can be defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse includes physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This takes in any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound someone. Domestic abuse can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. It can occur within a range of relationships including couples who are married, living together or dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, faith or class. Victims of domestic abuse may also include a child or other relative, or any other household member.

Domestic abuse is typically manifested as a pattern of abusive behavior toward an intimate partner in a dating or family relationship, where the abuser exerts power and control over the victim. Incidents are rarely isolated, and usually escalate in frequency and severity. Domestic abuse may culminate in serious physical injury or death.

<https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/what-is-domestic-abuse>

3.2 World Health Organisation (WHO)

At the World Health Assembly in **May 2016**, Member States of the WHO endorsed a global plan of action on strengthening the role of health systems in addressing interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls and against children.

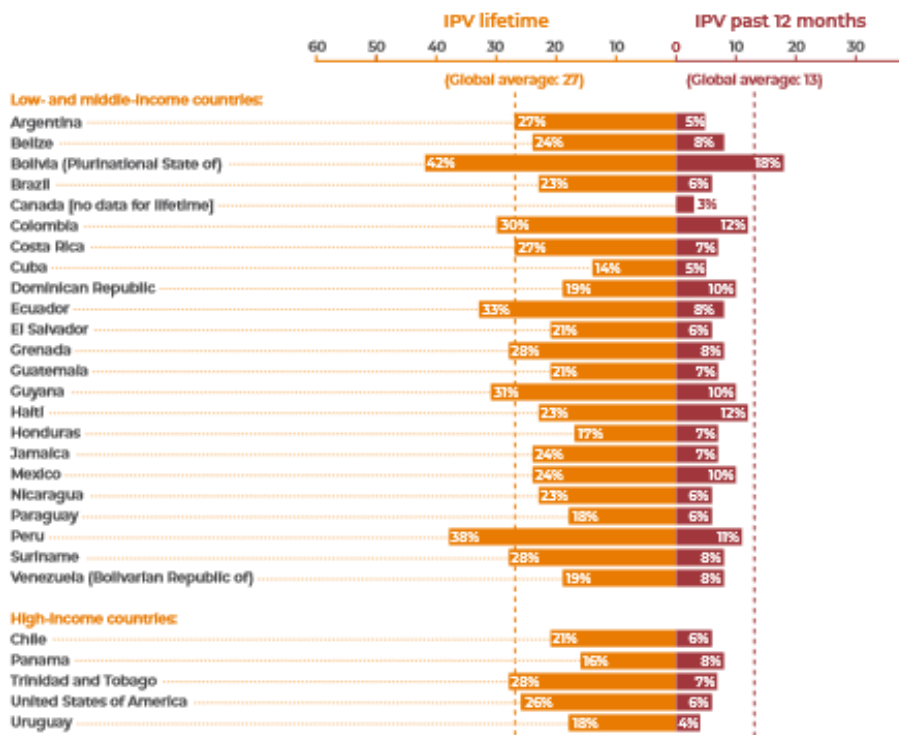
Intimate partner violence

and **sexual violence** are the most common forms of violence against women and girls. They happen in ALL countries around the world.



COUNTRY PREVALENCE ESTIMATES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

This chart shows country prevalence estimates of lifetime and past 12 months IPV among ever-married/partnered women aged 15–49 in countries of the WHO Region of the Americas.*



* There are a total of 35 Member States in the region.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-SRH-21.11>

The WHO has declared: Violence against women – particularly intimate partner violence and sexual violence – is a major **public health problem** and a **violation of women's human rights**.

The WHO goes on to say: Globally as many as 38% of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners. In addition to intimate partner violence, globally 6% of women report having been sexually

assaulted by someone other than a partner, although data for non-partner sexual violence are more limited. Intimate partner and sexual violence are mostly perpetrated by men against women.

What works to combat violence against women as declared by the WHO and UN Women?

There is growing evidence on what works to prevent violence against women, based on well-designed evaluations. In 2019, WHO and UN Women with endorsement from 12 other UN and bilateral agencies published **RESPECT women** – a framework for preventing violence against women aimed at policy makers.

Each letter of **RESPECT** stands for one of seven strategies:

- R**elationship skills strengthening;
- E**mpowerment of women;
- S**ervices ensured;
- P**overty reduced;
- E**nabling environments (schools, work places, public spaces) created;
- C**hild and adolescent abuse prevented; and
- T**ransformed attitudes, beliefs and norms.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-RHR-18.19>

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

3.3 Canada Looks at Gender Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence

Family Violence Initiative (Public Health Agency of Canada) (1988)

Since its inception in **1988**, the Family Violence Initiative (FVI) has been the Government of Canada’s primary horizontal mechanism for addressing family violence in Canada. The FVI is administrated by the Public Health Agency of Canada and brings together 12 federal departments and agencies to prevent and respond to family violence.

Family violence is defined by the Public Health Agency of Canada as “any form of abuse or neglect that a child or adult experiences from a family member, or from someone with whom they have an intimate relationship. It is an abuse of power by one person to hurt and control someone who trusts and depends on them”.

<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-violence/federal-action-gender-based-violence/chronology.html>

3.3.1 Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest Jury Recommendations (June 2022)

On the 28th of **June 2022**, the Ontario jury reviewing the deaths of the three women, Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam by a single male perpetrator who had been in intimate

relationships with the three women over a period of time made 80 recommendations related to Intimate Partner Violence, the first of which is for the Ontario government to declare IPV an epidemic.

The provincial government has so far (as of November 2023) refused to call out IPV as an epidemic.

June 28th, 2023: [Ontario](#) has rejected calls from an inquest into the deaths of three women at the hands of their former partner to formally declare intimate partner violence an epidemic.

“Intimate partner violence (IPV) would not be considered an epidemic as it is not an infectious or communicable disease,” the government wrote in its responses.

“Ministries appreciate the intent of the recommendation and acknowledge that IPV is a serious issue. We continue to work to address IPV using a concerted, whole-of-government approach.”

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/ontario-wont-declare-intimate-partner-153245359.html?guccounter=1>

For a further examination of the recommendations, refer to:

https://lukesplace.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CKW-Inquest-Verdict-Recommendations-SIGNED_Redacted.pdf

3.3.2 Turning the Tide Together: Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Commission Final Report

This two-year commission established by the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia, made a total of 130 recommendations covering policing, gun control, mental health policies, and root causes of violence, especially gender based violence, amongst others (published March, 2023). Volume Three of the report specifically addresses violence in our society and concentrates on intergenerational violence and intimate partner violence as partially causative in Canada’s largest mass casualty event.

*“In addition to rethinking policing, it is critically important that we address the root causes of violence. We must acknowledge and address social factors like poverty and inequality because it is clear that the social determinants of health are also the social determinants of community safety. **We need to accept that those who perpetrate mass casualties often have unaddressed histories of gender-based, intimate partner, or family violence – which means that tackling those forms of violence must be an urgent priority (toolkit author emphasis).**” Turning the Tide Together, Executive Summary*

The Commission specifically recommended that IPV be declared and epidemic, not only by governments but also by learning institutions, professional and trade associations and businesses.

14: Recommendation V.14 (from the Mass Casualty Commission, List of Recommendations)

The Commission recommends that:

(a) All levels of government in Canada declare gender-based, intimate partner, and family violence to be an epidemic that warrants a meaningful and sustained society-wide response.

- (b) Non-governmental bodies, including learning institutions, professional and trade associations, and businesses, declare gender-based, intimate partner, and family violence to be an epidemic that warrants a meaningful and sustained society-wide response.
- (c) Men take up individual and concerted action to contribute to ending this epidemic.

<https://masscasualtycommission.ca/files/documents/Turning-the-Tide-Together-List-of-Recommendations.pdf>

<https://masscasualtycommission.ca/files/documents/Turning-the-Tide-Together-Executive-Summary.pdf>

<https://masscasualtycommission.ca/files/documents/Turning-the-Tide-Together-Volume-3-Violence.pdf>

3.3.3 Canada: Federal Response to CKW Inquest Jury Recommendations

Following the publication of the CKW Inquest Jury Recommendations, Canada's Justice Minister and Attorney General Arif Virani agreed with the first recommendation in a six-page letter written to Ontario's Chief Coroner. A report by The Guardian outlined that the letter dated 14 August – the federal government's official response to last summer's inquest – also indicates Canada intends to criminalise coercive control, a form of intimate partner violence intended to isolate, intimidate and control victims. Mr. Virani also stated 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."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/16/canada-criminalize-coercive-control-gender-violence>

3.3.4 Ontario: Provincial Response to CKW Inquest Jury Recommendations

The provincial government has so far (as of November 2023) refused to call out IPV as an epidemic. The Globe and Mail stated in June 28th, 2023: Ontario has rejected calls from an inquest into the deaths of three women at the hands of their former partner to formally declare intimate partner violence an epidemic.

"Intimate partner violence (IPV) would not be considered an epidemic as it is not an infectious or communicable disease," the government [of Ontario] wrote in its responses.

"Ministries appreciate the intent of the recommendation and acknowledge that IPV is a serious issue. We continue to work to address IPV using a concerted, whole-of-government approach."

The non-binding recommendations of the CKW Inquest were hailed by experts last year as a "gift of solutions" to prevent similar tragedies in the future. Of the 86 recommendations, 68 were directed at the province (of Ontario). The government accepted – in full or in part – the majority of the recommendations, but, in addition to refusing to call out IPV as an epidemic, it rejected several other important recommendations including an independent Intimate Partner Violence Commission, the

appointment of a survivor advocate and the creation of a committee to ensure the inquest's recommendations are implemented.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-ontario-intimate-partner-violence-epidemic/>

In its rejection to call out IPV as an epidemic, the Ontario government said the term “epidemic” refers only to infectious disease – a response undermined by the province’s repeated and continued reference to the “opioid epidemic”.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/16/canada-criminalize-coercive-control-gender-violence>

3.4 Definition of Epidemic

Merriam Webster Online Dictionary

Epidemic (adjective)

1. affecting or tending to affect a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, community, or region at the same time
2. excessively [prevalent](#)
3. characterized by very widespread growth or extent: of, relating to, or constituting an epidemic

Epidemic (noun)

1. an outbreak of disease that spreads quickly and affects many individuals at the same time: an outbreak of epidemic disease
2. **an outbreak or product of sudden rapid spread, growth, or development**

3.5 Why Naming IPV is an Epidemic is Important

Naming IPV an epidemic reduces the stigma that affected women suffer and may encourage more reporting of this form of violence (police report that up to 80% of IPV goes unreported). It will help sufferers understand that it is not their fault. It will help agencies dealing with these women gain increased resources and funding. But ultimately, the goal of having all 444 Ontario municipalities name IPV an epidemic is to reduce the incidence by allowing systems to attack IPV at its roots – cultural and societal tacitly condoned violence by men against women.

“I think part of the reason it is important is because using that public health frame to understand what is happening is another way of telling survivors that what’s happening to them is not their fault. It’s not a character flaw on their part. It is a sociological phenomenon. It is a society-wide problem.”

<https://goldblattpartners.com/news-events/news/post/ontario-wont-declare-intimate-partner-violence-an-epidemic-following-inquest/>

“This declaration is important, as the majority (80 per cent) of intimate partner violence incidents are not reported to Police according to Statistics Canada,” Cheryl Eastman, Windsor Police’s victim assistance coordinator, said in the statement. “It is our hope by publicly recognizing IPV as an epidemic that awareness is heightened, disclosure may increase, and survivors know that help is available through various community partners.”

<https://windsor.ctvnews.ca/windsor-police-service-supports-council-s-declaration-of-intimate-partner-violence-an-epidemic-1.6502300>

4.0 Rationale For 'Establish Intimate Partner Violence is an Epidemic' Toolkit

There are 444 municipalities in Ontario. At the time of writing (November 2023), just over one tenth have declared IPV an epidemic, despite IPV being an insidious, hidden and pervasive outrage perpetrated on Ontario women (mostly), irrespective of geographical location, socioeconomic status, race, religion or origin of birth; despite being recognised as epidemic in proportion by inquests and commissions; despite being named such by the federal government.

Gender based violence and intimate partner violence hold women back. How can one engage fully when under constant fear for life and limb, not only for oneself but for one's children and even one's pets? In base terms (and I use the term base rather than basic because that is what it is – base), IPV costs the system – in 2009, including the impact borne by the justice system, the impact borne by primary victims, and the impact borne by third parties and others, the total economic impact of spousal violence in Canada was estimated at \$7.4 billion. What could the Canadian people do with \$7.4 billion per year?

IPV is not just a problem for women. It is true that males experience IPV, but not to the same extreme. Often (but not always) male to male relationships experience IPV. However, fewer men are killed by their intimate partners, and fewer men are subjected to physical versus emotional and verbal violence.

Politicians are persuaded to act most often by the demands of their constituents. It used to be that the vote counted but since fewer people feel empowered to vote these days, other measures must be used to influence political will. Ontario Council's Clubs are in a unique position to enact this power through size (we represent well over 4500 women), experience, tenacity and passion.

If all (or most) of the Ontario municipalities declared IPV an epidemic, would it not stand to reason that the provincial government would, by political necessity, have to declare IPV an epidemic? And would that not lead to a provincial strategy to tackle IPV? Would it not lead to increased funding and resources to front line groups to support victims? Would it not allow for the development of more educational programs in schools to mitigate generational IPV and unacceptable standards of masculinity? Would it not allow for the provision of resources for early interventions to reduce IPV?

It is this thinking which has led to the development of this toolkit. If more Ontario municipalities declare IPV an epidemic, the closer we are to coordinated action from the government.

Please use this toolkit as you and your Club see fit. If your town/city/municipality has already declared IPV an epidemic, approach the town/municipality/county close to you which has not. Use your strengths and your powers to effect this change. Fight for women who cannot fight for themselves.

For an interesting article on how to use your personal powers to change governments and the world, you may wish to read: <https://mobilisationlab.org/resources/10-ways-people-power-can-change-the-world/>.

5.0 The Role of Luke's Place regarding OC's 'Establish IPV is an Epidemic' Toolkit

The *OC IPV is an Epidemic Toolkit* is adapted from **Luke's Place Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam (CKW) Inquest Advocacy Toolkit** with permission (Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam (CKW) Inquest Advocacy Toolkit: <https://lukesplace.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/CKW-Inquest-Toolkit-June-2023.pdf>). It has been modified to suit the general needs of Ontario Council Clubs by the Advocacy Committee of Ontario Council, November 2023.

We thank Luke's Place for the work they have done and continue to do with respect to improving the safety and experience of women and their children as they proceed through the family law process after leaving an abusive relationship (taken from their website), in developing their seminal toolkit and generously providing parts or the whole of their toolkit for others' use.

6.0 Encouraging Your Municipality to Declare IPV is an Epidemic- Toolkit

The CKW Inquest recommendation #1 calls for the provincial government to declare intimate partner violence an epidemic. To date (November 2023) the province has refused to do this.

Lanark County in Eastern Ontario was the first county in Ontario to declare IPV an epidemic following publication of the CKW Inquest Recommendations. The Executive Director of Lanark County Interval House and Community Support, Erin Lee, was the impetus behind this. Ms Lee spoke to the with the Community Services Committee of the Lanark County Council about her organization's work and shared statistics about the numbers of women accessing their services immediately following publication of the CKW Inquest Recommendations. She ended her presentation by asking the committee to declare IPV an epidemic in the county.

While normally it would take some time for a suggestion from a member of the public to become a formal motion and pass through the various bureaucratic steps, that's not what happened this time. Before the end of the meeting, the motion to declare IPV an epidemic and to encourage other municipalities to do the same had been made, seconded and unanimously passed. A few days later, it was unanimously passed by the full council.

We have included Ms. Lee's updated presentation for your information and use (with permission from Ms. Lee). See Appendix 2.

The resolution was shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and specific provincial and federal ministries. AMO has also made the declaration and the federal government has described gender-based violence as an epidemic in its formal response to the inquest.

Before you embark on this advocacy initiative, please check to see if your municipality has already declared IPV an epidemic. If it has, perhaps it can be influential in helping you persuade other local municipalities in your area to do so.

6.1 Goal of This Advocacy Initiative

To have every one of the 444 municipalities throughout Ontario declare 'Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is An Epidemic'.

6.2 Increasing Awareness and Education Surrounding IPV

Most of you will have been advocating for a stop to violence against women and girls for some time. Nevertheless, before you embark on this particular advocacy journey, you may wish to more fully educate yourself, your Club members and the general public regarding IPV, its social implications and its

impact on the lives of Ontario women. There are numerous YouTube videos on IPV (see resources) for general information as well as movies which could be used to introduce the subject at meetings of your Advocacy Committee or a General Meeting on the topic. Your area will have women's shelters in which there are local experts on IPV and many police detachments have specific training in IPV and domestic violence and gather statistics for the area. These are excellent, highly credible sources for local information and data on incidence and many are more than pleased to present to you and the general public regarding local efforts.

If you are planning on public awareness sessions, make sure to extend invitations to your local councillors. This helps pave the way for specific, targeted advocacy regarding the declaration of IPV as an epidemic by your municipality.

6.3 Developing Relationships with Local Decision Makers and Influencers

6.3.1 Identify the Key Decision Makers and Influencers

As Director of Interval House, Ms. Lee has spent many years developing a solid relationship with the local government. A relationship like this will serve you well, not only for this initiative, but for other advocacy projects your Club wishes to take on.

As noted above, there are 444 municipalities in Ontario with a resulting variety of structures for local governance. Your Club and its members may actually cover several municipalities. Refer to the Association of Municipalities Ontario for a better understanding of your local government system(s) (<https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-101/how-local-government-works>). Note that there are single tier municipalities and lower tier municipalities (where there are county and/or regional councils as well).

Because the titles and roles of key decision makers and influencers will differ by area/municipality/tier, you will need to get to know the key players and their titles. Do your research to ensure you reach out to the right persons.

Key local government decision makers will include Mayors or Reeves, Deputy Mayors and Deputy Reeves, Councillors (or Aldermen), and, for lower tier municipal governments, County/Regional Council Wardens and Councillors, Regional Chairs.

Your area may include key local government influencers such as local women's shelters and their boards, local media, provincial and/or federal politicians and opposition critics. Ensure you engage them in your activities.

6.3.2 How to Build Relationships

Some Clubs will have well established relationships with their local governments and influencers while other Clubs will just be starting to build these relationships. Regardless of your engagement with these decision makers and influencers, it is recommended that your Club:

- Decide who/which committee in your Club will be responsible for this advocacy work.
- Develop a strategy for connecting with and building relationships.
 - Decide on when and how to reach the Decision Makers/Influencers

- This may include attending activities where they are likely to be present
 - Find commonalities to personalize the relationship
 - Point out the mutual benefits of them supporting IPV as an epidemic
 - Ask them to make a personal introduction for you to anyone they think can further the cause
- Position your Club as an ally. Even if you know that the person does not support your Club's position, start by presenting yourself as though you see them as an ally. For example:
 - “We know you care about keeping women and children in our community/province safe. ...”
- Make sure you know the decision maker's or influencer's track record on related issues.

6.3.3 Engage Decision Makers and Influencers

- Follow key decision makers on social media such as X (Twitter) and, when appropriate, like and/or retweet their posts
 - Provide positive feedback for good decisions or public statements the person makes, tying your praise to your organization's work/mandate. For example:
 - “I commend you for your recent public comments about the CKW inquest. As you stated, the rate of femicide in Ontario is far too high. Implementing the jury's recommendations would help to address this problem. We'd be happy to review key recommendations with you. ...”

6.3.4 Prepare Thoroughly for Meetings with Decision Makers

- Make sure you know the topic you wish to discuss thoroughly, so you can answer any questions the person/group may have for you.
 - Gather statistics from your local police, women's shelters, etc.
 - Send background materials to their staff person at least one week before the meeting.
 - Be respectful of their limited time.
 - Keep your presentation short so there is time for discussion.
 - Be sure to end your meeting with the specifics of what you want.
 - Follow up in writing to thank them for meeting with you, summarize what you discussed, provide anything you said you would, confirm your expectations of them, and put a timeline on when you hope to hear back.
 - Be active on social media about your advocacy efforts and where appropriate tag decision makers directly affected.
- Know when it is not worth your time to try to persuade someone to support your position.
- Remember that government moves slowly: advocacy requires patience and follow-up.

6.4 Communications

6.4.1 Letter Writing Campaign

To begin, you may wish to write a letter to the designated municipal or provincial leader(s) you have chosen to address IPV. **Remember that it is CFUW policy that any written correspondence must be**

signed by the Club President. Written correspondence may be co-signed by the Chair of your Advocacy Committee (or equivalent).

Any letter should begin with a description of what Ontario Council is and stands for. Here is an example of how to start your letter:

CFUW Ontario Council is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit, non-partisan women's organization whose members seek to provide life-long learning, improve public policy and advocate for gender equality and the rights of women and girls.

[Your Club] is one of 48 Ontario Council Clubs in Ontario representing approximately 4600 women. [Your Club] has been a member of this community for X years.

Two examples of draft letters can be found in Appendix 1. You may wish to use either (or neither) as you begin your advocacy efforts. The first is taken from Luke's Place Toolkit, modified for our purposes. The second is a letter developed by CFUW National in anticipation of Ontario Council's initiative on IPV and being used elsewhere in the country.

6.4.2 Op-eds

Writing an op-ed about the inquest, its first recommendation and the municipalities which have declared IPV an epidemic is a great way to raise awareness in your community and encourage people to take action. Unlike a news story, an op-ed expresses the opinion of the author, giving you a chance to share your thoughts about the recommendations with your community. You can also use it as a call to action.

Before you put time into writing one:

- Consider co-writing your op-ed with a colleague or another organization in your community, so a broader perspective can be shared
- Find out who is in charge of op-eds at the media outlet you want to work with
- Ask if they are interested in your topic for an op-ed
- Learn about any requirements in terms of writing style, number of authors permitted, length, etc.
- Ask whether you can submit your op-ed to multiple media outlets (most will only consider publishing an op-ed if it is submitted only to one)

There is a bit of an art to writing an op-ed. Here are a few tips:

- Tie your op-ed to something that is currently in the news
- Start with a strong sentence or two that will grab the attention of the readers
- Make a statement about what your main point or points will be
- Use the rest of your op ed to fill in the details and make your argument/pitch
- Whenever possible use hyperlinks to sources for any facts you include
- Make your call to action
- Conclude by circling back to the theme or those you identified at the beginning of the op-ed
- Keep your sentences and paragraphs short
- Use plain language and stay away from jargon
- Support your key points and arguments with facts
- Write for your audience

6.4.3 Social Media

Social media has become a daily activity for many of us. We use it every day to interact with family, friends and colleagues, to access news and to gather information. Organizations often use social media to promote their cause and garner support, as well as share resources.

As other communities declare IPV an epidemic and you advocate for your own to do so, you will have the opportunity to use social media to further the cause. You will need to decide if you will be taking a supporting role by using/promoting social media content developed by others, taking a lead role by developing your own content, or both. This may depend on your organizational capacity to engage in social media advocacy.

Tips for Using Social Media to Call for Action

- Know your audience – the audiences for posting on social media about the CKW inquest recommendations and IPV are unique.
- Know what social media platforms to use – Twitter was very active during the CKW Inquest
- Collaborate with others participating or involved in moving the recommendations from the inquest forward. Search for, join and repost their social media campaigns.
- Be consistent with posting/engaging with others.
- Maintain a singular voice across platforms

Example

In June of 2022, journalist Sarah Boesveld reported on the inquest into the deaths of Carol Culleton, Nathalie Warmerdam, and Anastasia Kuzyk. She was very active on Twitter throughout the inquest and, in fact, on June 28th, the day the jury delivered its verdict, tweeted more than 100 times (86 recommendations). By following Sarah, one could not only follow the inquest, but feel a part of the process and engage with it by liking, and retweeting with or without a comment.

6.5 Presentations to Local Councils

Attached as Appendix 2 is a presentation used by Erin Lee to persuade various parties to declare IPV is an epidemic in 2022 following the publication of the CKW Inquiry Jury Recommendations.

Request a meeting to present to local council members.

Please note that although Ontario Council has permission to use this presentation, it is advisable that you adapt it to your presentation styles and local needs and populate the presentation with local statistics in addition to Ontario data as well as using your logo.

7.0 What is Next?

In 2018, the Ontario Government passed the Safer Ontario Act meant to reduce crime of all types in Ontario. One facet of this very complex Act was to encourage Ontario municipalities to develop Community Safety and Well-being Plans. The CKW Inquiry Jury Recommendation #10 calls for these plans to include IPV prevention: *Encourage that IPV be integrated into every municipality's community safety and well-being (CSWB) plan.*

For those Ontario Council Clubs which have accomplished the goal of this initiative, that is to have their municipality(ies) declare IPV is an epidemic, you may wish to engage with your council(s) to ensure their CSWB plans include prevention of IPV as a focus.

8.0 Resources

Where applicable, this document includes the resource from which information was taken with that information. The following limited list of resources may be useful for further information and education regarding IPV.

Data

<https://canadianwomen.org/the-facts/gender-based-violence/>

<https://www.femicideinCanada.ca/home/contact>

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/441/FEWO/Brief/BR11575288/br-external/StatisticsCanada-Brief-e.pdf> (2022)

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/221019/dq221019c-eng.htm> (2021)

<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-violence/intimate-partner-violence.html>

Videos, Documentaries and Movies specifically about IPV

<https://www.pbs.org/video/teen-intimate-partner-violence-rock-bottombreaking-silenc-4itu5i/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZS1JSwBNKM> – Behind Closed Doors

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_5GsLKmzIY – Telling Amy’s Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIHxhmOsrHo> – Eggshells – A Short Film about Domestic Abuse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdF8ksEODs4> - What will it take to end intimate partner violence in Canada? CBC National

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9217215/canada-covid-family-violence-increase/> Family violence increases for 5th straight year in Canada. What’s behind the trend?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVTyu1CfVpw> – Purgatory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiF9ays47EI> – Caged In

Best Book Lists on Intimate Partner Violence

<https://rtbookreviews.com/best-books-about-domestic-violence/> (2023)

<https://www.nypl.org/blog/2022/10/01/domestic-violence-awareness-reading-list>

General Resources

<https://www.casw-acts.ca/en/resources/domestic-violence-resources>

Appendix 1 Draft Letters

Draft Letter 1 (from Luke's Place (modified))

RECIPIENT'S FULL NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, ON POSTAL CODE

DATE

Dear XXXX:

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Ontario Council is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit, non-partisan women's organization whose members seek to provide life-long learning, improve public policy and advocate for gender equality and the rights of women and girls.

[Your Club] is one of 48 Ontario Council Clubs in Ontario representing approximately 4600 women. [Your Club] has been a member of this community for X years.

REFER TO ANY CONNECTION YOU HAVE HAD WITH PERSON/POSITION IN THE PAST.

I am writing to you today with respect to the Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam (CKW) Inquest. As you may know, this inquest was held in June of 2022 in Pembroke, Ontario, to investigate the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam, all of whom were killed by the same perpetrator on September 22, 2015. The inquest jury heard from many experts from across the province and beyond, as well as from witnesses who were involved in the events leading up to and on that day. It also heard from those working in the field of intimate partner violence and from IPV survivors.

The jury returned 86 powerful recommendations. If all recommendations were adopted, Ontario would move in a very positive direction with respect to both responding to and eradicating IPV, including domestic homicide. Our communities would be safer and healthier, public money would be better spent, and women and children would be able to live lives free from the constant threat of violence and abuse.

We believe that the first step in implementing these actions is for each municipality in Ontario to carry out the jury's first recommendation, that is, to declare IPV an epidemic. We are calling on you and your [committee/council] to do this for our community.

ANOTHER PARA HERE OUTLINING ANY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ARE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO YOU OR THAT ARE RELATED TO ISSUES YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH YOUR RECIPIENT.

We know you share our commitment to this vision for our province and our community and we welcome an opportunity to further discuss implementation of this first recommendation, or any others, with you and your colleagues.

Sincerely,
NAME
POSITION
ORGANIZATION
EMAIL
PHONE NUMBER

Draft Letter 2 (CFUW National – not modified)

Recipient's Title and Address

Dear

I am writing to you as President of [Your Club].

We support a national call for gender based violence and intimate partner violence to be declared an epidemic in Canada. Women are unfairly subject to harm at the hands of their partners, and often strangers, which causes ripple effects in families and the workplace.

Why is ending GBV and IPV so urgent?

It costs lives: in 2022, 184 women and girls were violently killed, primarily by men. One woman or girl is killed every 48 hours in Canada. That's 21% of the homicides reported. ([Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, 2022](#)).

The toll on those who are harmed is significant. It's hard on those around them, too. Children who witness violence in the home have twice the rate of psychiatric disorders as children from non-violent homes ([Eve Bender, Psychiatric News, 2004](#)).

It costs billions of dollars: \$7.4 billion to deal with the aftermath of spousal violence alone ([Department of Justice, 2009](#)).

Domestic violence can carry over into the workplace, threatening women's ability to maintain economic independence. More than half (53%) of study respondents who experienced domestic violence said that at least one type of abusive act happened at or near their workplace. Almost 40% of those who had experienced domestic abuse said it made it difficult for them to get to work, and 8.5% said that they lost their jobs because of it ([Jennifer C.D. MacGregor et al., Safety and Health at Work, 2016](#)).

The United Nations in 1993 declared GBV a global epidemic. The Mass Casualty Report from Nova Scotia in 2022 called for a similar reaction from communities around Canada.

Other cities and communities, Toronto, Ottawa, Lanark county in Ontario, have declared GBV and IPV local epidemics. Every community in our country is affected by the growing incidence of violence against women and girls. Please help bring this to the attention of your community, through education programs and action to reduce violence, like:

addressing the root causes of violence by advancing gender equality, promoting social inclusion within municipal policy and community-based organizations, and supporting Indigenous self-determination.

engaging and mobilizing more men and boys because they are overrepresented among perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence and are key to stopping violence before it starts.

creating an action plan preventing child maltreatment and adverse childhood experiences because these actions will disrupt the intergenerational transmission of violence while ensuring the next generation grows up in safe and empowering environments

building the capacity of each citizen to be an active bystander and challenge the normalization of violence and inequality within their spheres of influence. This approach will send a strong message to perpetrators throughout your city that domestic and sexual violence are not acceptable.

In support of our national campaign, we hope you will consider declaring Gender Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence a local epidemic in your city.

Yours in solidarity

President, CFUW

Fact sheet

What is the scope of GBV and IPV in Canada? [from Canadian Women's Federation]

More than 4 in 10 women have experienced some form of intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetimes. In 2018, 44% of women reported experiencing some form of psychological, physical, or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes ([Statistics Canada, 2021](#)). As we know, many women (estimated 70-80%) do not report violent incidents or sexual assaults to police, so the number of incidences reported are certainly fewer than actual.

Research shows that “women disproportionately experience the most severe forms of IPV, such as being choked, being assaulted or threatened with a weapon, or being sexually assaulted” ([Adam Cotter, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, 2021](#)).

“... intimate partner femicide comprises a broad spectrum of relationships. In 2022, the largest proportion of victims was killed by a current legal spouse (35%; N=18), followed by a current common-law partner (14%; N=7), a current dating partner (12%; N=6), an estranged legal spouse (8%; N=4), and an estranged dating partner (8%; N=4)” ([Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, 2022](#)).

“Although homicide rates are generally higher for males than females, females are at a much higher risk of homicide by their male intimate partners” ([Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability](#)).

” ... women and girls are disproportionately killed by someone they know, namely an intimate partner or a family member ... In comparison, men are most often killed by someone with whom they share a more distant relationship (e.g., an acquaintance, friend, stranger)” ([Sutton, Statistics Canada, 2023](#)).

Overall, among the total number of homicide victims in 2016 and 2017, shooting was the most common cause of death (40%), followed by stabbing (24%), where information was known (for 82% of the victims). Males were more likely to be killed by firearms (45%) compared to females (24%) who were more likely to be beaten to death (15%) than male victims (10%). A different pattern emerged, though, when the method of killing was examined in non-urban locations ... equal proportions of females and males were shot to death in rural areas (36% each) ([Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and an Accountability, 2020](#)).

It is estimated that, each year, \$7.4 billion is spent to deal with the aftermath of spousal violence alone. This includes immediate costs, such as emergency room visits and related costs, such as loss of income. It also includes tangible costs such as funerals, and intangible costs such as pain and suffering ([Department of Justice, 2009](#)).

Over two-thirds (69%) of those experience incidents of cybercrime are women. They account for 84% of those who experience sexual violations associated with a cybercrime and 65% of those involving non-sexual violent violations ([Benjamin Mazowita and Mireille Vézina, Statistics Canada, 2014](#)).

“Studies and coroner inquests have shown that rates of homicide in domestic violence situations increase significantly when there is a firearm in the home. Long guns are the guns most likely to be used in domestic violence situations” ([Coalition for Gun Control](#)).

“There were over 107,000 victims of police-reported intimate partner violence (IPV) in Canada in 2019. For 660 victims of IPV, a firearm was present. Women accounted for almost 8 in 10 victims of all IPV incidents and they were even more likely to be the victim in the 660 IPV incidents where a firearm was present” ([Public Safety Canada, 2021](#)).

Rates of intimate partner violence experienced by rural women are five times higher than for rural men and 75% higher than urban women ([Shana Conroy,](#)

[Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, 2021; Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children, 2021](#)).

For girls and young women in the north, the rate of experiencing violent crime is four times higher than Canada's overall population. The violence is more likely to be severe and result in physical injury ([Shana Conroy, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, 2021; Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children, 2021](#)).

Cyber violence, which includes online threats, harassment, and stalking, has emerged as an extension of violence against women and is sometimes referred to as technology-facilitated gender-based violence, abuse, and harassment ([UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development, 2015; Cynthia Khoo, Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, 2021](#)).

The proportion of women killed by a spouse or intimate partner is over eight times greater than the proportion of men ([Statistics Canada, 2020](#)).

In 2020, 160 women and girls were killed by violence. In 2021, 173 women and girls were killed by violence. In 2022, 184 women and girls were killed by violence. This is a concerning increase from 148 women and girls killed by violence in 2019. "The proportion of Indigenous female victims continues to be significantly higher than their representation in the population (5%) with at least one in five victims (or 20%) being an Indigenous woman or girl" ([Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, 2020, 2021, and 2022](#)).

Two thirds (64%) of people in Canada know a woman who has experienced physical, sexual, or emotional abuse ([Canadian Women's Foundation, 2021](#)).

Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than any other women in Canada, and 16 times more likely than white women ([National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019](#)).

Women are more likely than men (39% vs 35%) to report experiencing violent crime at some point since age 15 ([Statistics Canada, 2019](#)).

Women are five times more likely than men to experience sexual assault ([Adam Cotter, Statistics Canada, 2021](#)).

Approximately 4.7 million women, 30% of all women 15 years of age and older, report that they have experienced sexual assault at least once since the age of 15. This is compared to 8% men ([Statistics Canada, 2019](#)).

Women are more likely to experience elder abuse from a family member and account for 58% of senior survivors of family violence ([Statistics Canada, 2019](#)).

On any given night in Canada, 3,491 women and their 2,724 children sleep in shelters because it isn't safe at home. Out of the 4,476 women and 3,493 children staying in shelters on the snapshot date of April 16, 2014, 78% (or 3,491 women and 2,742 children) were there primarily because of abuse ([Sara Beattie and Hope Hutchins, Statistics Canada, 2014](#)).

On any given night, about 300 women and children are turned away because shelters are already full ([Sara Beattie and Hope Hutchins, Statistics Canada, 2014](#)).

“Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a widespread problem that occurs at alarming rates, with 1 in 3 women worldwide having experienced physical or sexual violence inflicted by an intimate partner or non-partner at some point in their lifetime¹. Since its outbreak, the COVID-19 pandemic has only intensified VAWG, particularly in, but not limited to, the domestic sphere. It is for this reason that we at UN-Women refer to VAWG as the “**shadow pandemic**”. While the world’s attention is focused on containing COVID-19, this other scourge is growing, exacerbated by the very measures put in place to mitigate the spread of the virus, such as lockdowns, social distancing and other forms of restrictions on movement.

While lockdowns and stay-at-home orders may be crucial in limiting and preventing the spread of COVID-19, they also have a devastating impact on women and girls living with the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), as many of the factors that trigger or perpetuate violence against women and girls are compounded by preventive confinement measures.” *Addressing the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Violence Against Women and Girls - Maria Noel Vaeza UN Regional Representative, Americas and Caribbean, Nov 27, 2020*

Appendix 2 Erin Lee's Presentation and Resolution



LCIHCS for IPV May
10, 2023 (1) (2) (1) (1)

Click to Open and Close

Original Resolution for Lanark County (Erin Lee)

Be it resolved that the Lanark County Council recognizes the issues of violence in rural communities as serious to the health and wellness of local families;

Be it further resolved that the Lanark County Council recognizes the rural Renfrew County inquest as important to all rural communities;

Based on the statistics of 4815 crisis calls and service provision to 527 women and children in our local community, the Lanark County Council declares IPV (intimate partner violence)/VAW (violence against women) an epidemic as per recommendation #1 of the Renfrew County CKW Jury Recommendations.