

Motion to Declare a Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic in the City of Prince George

Moved by: Councillors XX, XX, XX

WHEREAS gender-based violence is defined as violence or abuse perpetrated against a woman, girl or gender-diverse individual because of their gender, gender expression, gender identity or perceived gender; and

WHEREAS according to official 2023 UN Women statistics, globally, an estimated one in three women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their life (30 per cent of women aged 15 and older); and

WHEREAS, globally, according to the same report, there is a woman or girl being killed every 11 minutes in their home; and

WHEREAS femicide is a result of gender-based violence and 22 countries specifically reference it in their criminal legislation; and

WHEREAS Canada does not currently include the term femicide in their criminal legislation; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability (CFOJA) found that in Canada between 2018 and 2022 one woman was killed every 48 hours; and

WHEREAS in the same report not all femicide cases have an identified accuser, the majority of identified accusers have been male suspects; and

WHEREAS the injustice of a flawed system in Canada has allowed a serial killer who has been convicted of multiple femicides, Paul Bernardo, to be moved from a maximum-security facility to a medium security corrections facility, despite the outrage and disdain of victims' families, elected representatives across the country and the public at large; and

WHEREAS 75% of women reported abuse and conflict with a partner, spouse, or parent as their top reason for their housing loss; and

WHEREAS the federal government has allocated 25% of the federal housing budget to housing for vulnerable women; and

WHEREAS the Province of BC's "Stronger BC for Everyone" acknowledged both that "Gender-based violence is pervasive – and it must end", and that there was an increase in gender-based violence and intimate partner violence during

the Covid-19 pandemic that is recognized to increase during and after natural disasters; and

WHEREAS Prince George's Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs is seeking ways to contribute to the elimination of Human Trafficking; and

WHEREAS Mayor Yu has established public safety as a key area of focus for Prince George through the establishment of the Standing Committee on Public Safety; and

WHEREAS the demand for support services increases as awareness increases; and

WHEREAS 24 municipalities and regions (Ajax, Burlington, Carleton Place, City of Ottawa, Conmee Township, Durham Region, Halton Region, Kincardine, Lanark County, Mattice-Val Cote, Municipality of Mississippi Mills, North Algoma Wilberforce, Prince Edward County, Renfrew County, Town of Hawkesbury, Town of Laurentian Hills, Town of Perth, Town of Rainy River, Town of Renfrew, Town of Smith Falls, Township of Armour, Township of Enniskillen, Whitby and Woodstock) across Ontario have declared a gender-based violence and/or intimate partner violence epidemic;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE:

1. Declare a gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence an epidemic in Prince George; and
2. Forward a copy of this Resolution to the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George with a request the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George declare a gender-based and intimate partner violence epidemic across the Regional District; and
3. Send a communication to Prince George MPs and MLAs, signed by Mayor Yu on behalf of Council, requesting that they join the City in asking for an epidemic of gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence to be declared at the Provincial and Federal levels; and
4. Send a communication to the Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General Canada, and the Prime Minister of Canada, signed by Mayor Yu on behalf of Council, advocating that Femicide be added as a term to the Criminal Code of Canada; and
5. Send a communication to Premier Eby and Prime Minister Trudeau, signed by Mayor Yu on behalf of Council, advocating to the provincial and federal governments to provide the appropriate supports necessary to address the epidemic; and
6. Send a copy of this Resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).