

Moved by Councillor Donohue
Seconded by Councillor Brose

WHEREAS the jury that adjudicated the Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam Inquest issued 86 recommendations on to the Province of Ontario on Intimate Partner Violence; and

WHEREAS every six days in Canada a woman is killed by her intimate partner; and

WHEREAS on any given night in Canada, over 6,000 women and children sleep in shelters because it is not safe for them at home; and

WHEREAS each year, over 40,000 arrests result from domestic violence, about 12% of all violent crime in Canada; and

WHEREAS the majority of victims of spousal abuse are female, accounting for 83% of all victims; and

WHEREAS one in five women experience some form of abuse in their intimate relationship; and

WHEREAS this past year in Ontario, 52 women or one every week, were victims of femicide; in Renfrew County, 2 women have been killed by men since December 2022; and

WHEREAS the cost of violence against women costs the national justice system, social assistance budgets and municipal budgets millions of dollars per year; and

WHEREAS municipalities are on the front lines in addressing gender-based violence in our communities and therefore are in a position to offer insights on the needs and possible directions for provincial and federal funding; and

WHEREAS a pebble mosaic was unveiled in Barry's Bay's Water Tower Park to honour Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam; and

WHEREAS each year, Renfrew County hosts a vigil in Petawawa at the Women's Monument to honour women who have been lost through femicide;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the County of Renfrew recognizes the issues of violence against women in rural communities as serious to the health and wellness of local families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council for the County of Renfrew recognizes the rural Renfrew County Inquest as important to all rural communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council for the County of Renfrew is committed to engaging with community partners to educate and support our residents about the seriousness and long-term danger of violence in our community; and

Based on the statistics of 4,815 crisis calls and service provision to 527 women and children in our local community, the Council for the County of Renfrew declares IPV (intimate partner violence)/VAW (violence against women) an epidemic as per recommendation #1 of the Renfrew County jury recommendations; and

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. CARRIED.