

Encouraging your municipality to declare intimate partner violence an epidemic

Inquest recommendation #1 calls for the provincial government to declare intimate partner violence an epidemic, but there's no need to wait for the province to do this.

The Executive Director of [Lanark County Interval House and Community Support](#), Erin Lee, spoke about her organization's work and shared statistics about the numbers of women accessing their services with the community services committee of the Lanark County Council in mid-December. 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. It is being sent to every municipality in Ontario as well as to the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to encourage them to follow suit.

Let's start 2023 by seeing this motion sweep through other Ontario communities!

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 15, 2022

Intimate Partner Violence Declared an Epidemic in Lanark County

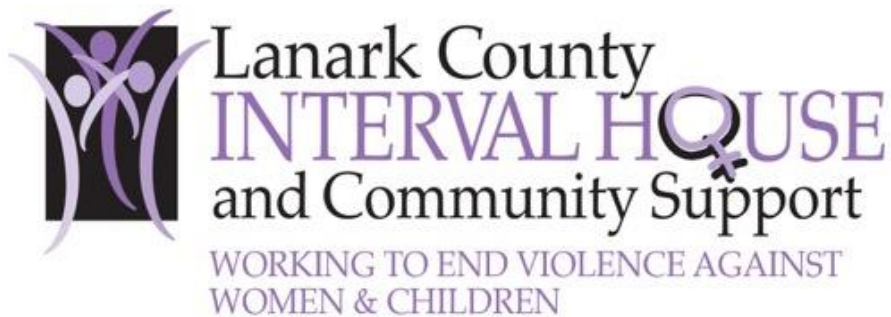
PERTH, Dec. 15, 2022 – In a historic move, Lanark County Council became the first county in Ontario to declare Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) an epidemic in accordance with the Culleton, Kuzyk and Warmerdam Inquest's jury recommendations. The resolution was formally passed at the County Council meeting on December 14.

The five-person jury presented 86 recommendations as a result of the inquest, which took place in June of this year. The first recommendation is for the province to formally declare IPV as an epidemic. "We have to see it, name it, change it. This is the naming part, that's the easy part. the hard part is changing it," Warden Peter McLaren said at the meeting on December 14. "that's what we really have to start focusing on, and that's for everybody."

"We can't understate the fact that Lanark County is the first to make a move on IPV in Ontario," said Lanark County Interval House's Executive Director Erin Lee. "We should be incredibly proud of our community for making this happen and, of course, of our Council for listening and taking steps toward change. The county is already doing the work." Speaking at the recent What Now Lanark County Event, activist and witness in the Inquest Julie S. Lalonde emphasised that rural communities are the ones putting in the work and making tangible change to end violence and implored urban centres across the province to participate.

It is Lanark County Interval House's hope that neighbouring communities across Ontario will also start to implement Recommendation #1. "The best show of support for the victims of violence is for this declaration to be made," Lee stated. "52 women in 52 weeks were taken by femicide in Ontario. This is, frankly, overdue."

MORE



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Lanark County Interval House has been sharing and explaining an inquest recommendation each week on their social media to engage the community, the information is also available on Lake 88's website under the 'Local News' heading (<https://lanarkleedstoday.ca/ckw-inquest-recommendations/>). The agency relaunched their See It, Name It, Change It campaign in September hoping that it will help community members be as familiar with what to do when they see violence as they are with stop, drop and roll when there is a fire. Interval House hopes that with the community on side to change violence, inquests into gender-based violence and femicides will be a thing of the past.

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Lanark County Interval House and Community Support has been offering emergency and on-going programs to women and children living in or escaping from domestic violence for over 40 years. For more information about the agency, please visit www.lcih.org

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