



## COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

### SUMMARY

JUNE 10, 2022

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#### 1. C-2022-127

Correspondence dated May 31, 2022, from the Town of Aurora to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and the The Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, respecting Private Member's Bill C-233 "Keira's Law".

#### 2. C-2022-128

Correspondence dated June 10, 2022, from the City of Thorold to Emergency Management Ontario, respecting Mental Health, Homelessness and Addiction State of Emergency.



Legislative Services  
Michael de Rond  
905-726-4771  
clerks@aurora.ca

Received June 6, 2022  
C-2022-127

Town of Aurora  
100 John West Way, Box 1000  
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

May 31, 2022

**Delivered by email**  
[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)  
[karina.gould@parl.gc.ca](mailto:karina.gould@parl.gc.ca)

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Karina Gould, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Gould:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of May 24, 2022  
Motion 10.1 - Councillor Humfries; Re: Private Member's Bill C-233 "Keira's Law"**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on May 24, 2022, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

**Whereas violence against women is a Canadian public health crisis that demands urgent action; and**

**Whereas one in four women experience domestic violence in their lifetime. One woman or girl is killed every other day, on average, somewhere in our country; and**

**Whereas the most dangerous time for a victim of abuse is when she separates from her partner. According to research from the U.S. Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, when there is a history of coercive control, violence and a recent separation, a woman's risk of domestic homicide goes up 900 times; and**

**Whereas the current Canadian court system is not equipped to protect women. According to the National Judicial Institute, there is no mandatory education for Judges on domestic violence. Judges need education on what constitutes domestic violence or coercive control. A formal education program would ensure**

**another line of defense for victims, as well as preventing violence and abuse before it happens; and**

**Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the domestic violence crisis. Women's shelters and crisis centres have reported a marked increase in requests for services this year. The concerns for children are significant.**

**According to recent research from The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, doctors have seen more than double the number of babies with serious injuries as this time last year. These include head injuries, broken bones or in some cases death. Institutions across the country are reporting a similar trend; and**

**Whereas, according to Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, children must be protected from "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has care of the child." Our current family justice system often fails our children in this regard; and**

**Whereas, in worst case scenarios, children are killed by a violent parent. As reported by the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative, recent separation and domestic violence are the two biggest risk factors for domestic violence related child homicides; and**

**Whereas custody disputes are an additional risk factor. Each year in Canada, about 30 children are killed by a parent. Mothers are responsible about 40 per cent of the time, often due to postpartum depression or mental illness. In the 60 per cent of cases where fathers are the murderers, anger, jealousy or post-separation retaliatory revenge are the usual motivations; and**

**Whereas Keira's Law is named after four-year-old Keira Kagan, who was killed while in the custody of her father, in 2020; and**

**Whereas many cases of domestic violence are inappropriately labelled as "high conflict" in the family court system. According to research by Rachel Birnbaum, a Social Work Professor at the University of Western Ontario who specializes in child custody, approximately one third of cases called "high conflict" by the court had substantiated evidence of valid concerns about domestic violence. These cases must be recognized and treated differently by judges; and**

**Whereas voting in favour of "Keira's Law", contained in Private Member's Bill C-233, will not only protect victims of violence and children, it will save lives by**

**amending the *Judges Act* to establish seminars for judges on intimate partner violence and coercive control;**

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council calls upon the House of Commons to support Member of Parliament Anju Dhillon's Private Member's Bill C-233, that will raise the level of education on domestic violence and coercive control for federally appointed Judges; and**
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be sent to: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; The Honourable Karina Gould, MP, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development; The Honourable Candice Bergen, Interim Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada; Yves-François Blanchet, MP, Leader of the Bloc Québécois; Jagmeet Singh, MP, Leader of the New Democratic Party; MP Tony Van Bynen; and MP Leah Taylor Roy; and**
- 3. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be circulated to all Ontario municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Yours sincerely,



Michael de Rond  
Town Clerk  
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

MdR/lb

Copy: Hon. Candice Bergen, M.P., Interim Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada  
Yves-François Blanchet, M.P., Leader of the Bloc Québécois  
Jagmeet Singh, M.P., Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada  
Tony Van Bynen, M.P. Newmarket—Aurora  
Leah Taylor Roy, M.P. Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
All Ontario municipalities



June 10, 2022

Emergency Management Ontario  
25 Grosvenor Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

To whom this may concern:

**Re: Mental Health, Homelessness and Addiction State of Emergency**

Please be advised Thorold City Council, at its June 7, 2022 meeting, adopted the following motion:

WHEREAS According to the Province of Ontario Emergency Response Plan (2008), Canadian municipalities are free to declare states of emergencies in response to "any situation or impending situation caused by the forces of nature, an accident, an intentional act or otherwise that constitutes a danger of major proportions to life or property";

WHEREAS 11/12 of Niagara-area municipalities have unanimously requested that Niagara Region declare a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness, and addiction, Thorold City Council previously unanimously supported a motion requesting the Niagara Region declare a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness, and addiction;

WHEREAS the City of Thorold Council previously unanimously supported a motion requesting the Niagara Region declare a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness, and addiction;

WHEREAS Approximately 665 residents, including 121 children in Niagara, were counted as homeless (March 2021);

WHEREAS Niagara EMS reported 1001 suspected opioid overdoses (2021) and 210 suspected opioid overdoses already this year (April 2022); and

WHEREAS Niagara's suicide rate of 9.8 deaths per 100,000 is higher than the provincial average of 7.7 deaths per 1000,000 in Ontario (Stats Can).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That Thorold City Council **DIRECT** Mayor Terry Ugulini as the Head of Council to declare a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness, and addiction in the City of Thorold; and

That this resolution **BE CIRCULATED** to the Ontario Minister of the Solicitor General, Emergency Management Ontario, the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ontario Associate Minister for Mental Health, all Niagara-area Members of Provincial Parliament, and all Niagara area municipalities.

**CARRIED**

Yours truly,



Matthew Trennum  
City Clerk

MT:jg

cc: M. Dilwaria, Chief Administrative Officer  
M. Trennum, City Clerk  
The Honorable Sylvia Jones, Minister of the Solicitor General, [sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org)  
The Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)  
The Honorable Merrilee Fullerton, Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, [ministermccss@ontario.ca](mailto:ministermccss@ontario.ca)  
Ontario Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, [Brett.weltman@ontario.ca](mailto:Brett.weltman@ontario.ca)  
Vance Badawey, MP, Niagara Centre, [vance.badawey@parl.gc.ca](mailto:vance.badawey@parl.gc.ca)  
Jeff Burch, MPP, Niagara Centre, [JBurch-QP@ndp-on.ca](mailto:JBurch-QP@ndp-on.ca)  
Ann-Marie Norio, Niagara Region, [ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca](mailto:ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca)  
All Niagara Local Area Municipalities