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August 29, 2023

Solicitor General Michael Kerzner
Ministry of the Solicitor General
George Drew Building
18th Floor
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y6

Minister Michael Parsa
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
7th Floor
438 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

Associate Minister Charmaine Williams
Women's Economic and Social Opportunity
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
7th Floor
438 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

Dear Ministers,

On behalf of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and its members, I am writing today to thank you for meeting with municipal and Indigenous representatives on the issue of intimate partner and gender-based violence at the AMO Conference. It was a productive meeting, and we hope it sets a foundation for continued collaboration between the province and municipalities towards addressing this issue.

At its August Board meeting, AMO recognized that gender-based and intimate partner violence is an epidemic in Ontario that requires urgent, prioritized, and coordinated action. Municipal governments are partners in responding to these issues and want to work together with the province on a strategy to respond to these forms of violence, building off the recommendations of the Culleton, Kuzyk and Warmerdam Inquest, and the Calls for Justice from The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Municipalities are calling on the provincial government to work with partners – including social service agencies, police forces, correctional facilities, and the Courts – to develop a concrete plan of action to address intimate partner violence, gender-based violence, and violence against Indigenous women that is accompanied by sufficient resources, clear accountability mechanisms, and a robust implementation approach. This action plan must include working with groups such as the Ontario Native Women’s Association and other community-based partners to implement the Calls for Justice in response to the high rates of violence against Indigenous women. Supporting the collection, maintenance, and sharing of disaggregated data must be a part of the action plan to ensure we can appropriately respond to communities that are disproportionately affected by these forms of violence, including racialized communities.

We encourage the province to leverage AMO’s Social Policy and Policing Task Forces, in addition to the AMO-MOU process, to begin collaboration and engagement with municipalities and partners right away. Please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Jones, AMO’s Director of Policy and Government Relations, at ljones@amo.on.ca with respect to next steps. We look forward to working with your Ministries to begin action to end intimate partner violence, gender-based violence, and violence against Indigenous women.

Sincerely,



Colin Best
AMO President
Councillor for Halton Region

cc: Cora Cyrette-McGuire, CEO, Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWA)
The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mario Di Tommaso, Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety, Ministry of the Solicitor General
Denise Allyson Cole, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services