



In Ontario last year, 62 women & girls were killed by men who claimed to care for them.¹ Every year we honour those who have lost their lives to femicide, and their families who are left mourning their loved ones.

On July 25th, 2023, the City of London officially declared intimate partner violence and femicide an epidemic. Lanark was the first municipality in Ontario to declare that killing women and girls is an epidemic. Currently there are 94 communities across the province that have followed suit.

This follows from the June 28th, 2022, jury recommendations from the Renfrew Inquest into the deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam. In total, 86 recommendations for change were made, speaking to oversight and accountability, system approaches, collaboration and communication, funding, education and training, measures addressing perpetrators of intimate partner violence, intervention, and safety. Formally declaring intimate partner violence as an epidemic is only the first of the 86 recommendations.

A community is only as strong as its most vulnerable members. We measure our success as a city not only by those who are doing well, but by telling the stories and numbers of people who are struggling to survive in the current system. To this end, the LCCEWA is releasing their annual **SNAPSHOT** of statistics to start a conversation in London. We are working to connect the dots between social and systemic issues that include violence against women, inequality, rising poverty, mental health, addictions, engaging men, human trafficking, affordable housing, and homelessness.

It is especially important for political leaders at all levels of government to understand that violence committed against women is not just an issue that happens between people, but has individual, social and economic costs that impact everyone.

London is a city with great strengths. Solutions to our most pressing problems require the engagement and support of the whole community. We are using the **SNAPSHOT** to tell the story of what is happening on the ground so that we can think together about how we can be successful as a community.

For more information please visit:

- <https://www.buildingabiggerwave.org/actions/qbv-epidemic>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/renfrew-county-inquest-intimate-partner-violence-recommendations-1.6884919>
- <https://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/special-events/renfrew-county-inquest/index.html>

For media interviews please contact Co-Chairs:

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- Jennifer Dunn, Executive Director, London Abused Women's Centre, jen@lawc.on.ca, 519-432-2204

¹ Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses - chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.oaith.ca/assets/library/uploads/2023-Annual-Femicide-List.pdf