



The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
Email: premier@ontario.ca

April 11th, 2025

Dear Premier Ford,

RE: Reviving Bill 173, Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act

Upon reelection as Ontario's Premier, we want to emphasize the urgent need for your commitment to ending gender-based violence and addressing the epidemic of intimate partner violence in our province. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is an epidemic in Ontario, but it is preventable.

As you may recall, prior to the election WomanACT joined advocates across Ontario in support of Bill 173, the Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, 2024. This legislation was a crucial step in addressing the IPV epidemic in Ontario, aligning the province with [100 other municipalities](#), that have officially declared IPV an epidemic exhibiting a shared sense of urgency in addressing and the issue. No progress has been made on Bill 173 since April 2024. Simultaneously, [MPP Jess Dixon](#) and [MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam](#) were co-leading a sub-committee of the [Standing Committee on Justice Policy](#) that conducted a study on Intimate Partner Violence in Ontario that is pending the release of its final report. The provincial snap election on the 27th of February 2025 meant that Bill 173 had "died on the order paper" and all work on the bill has been stopped and it will need to be reintroduced in the next legislative session after the new government had formed. We are counting on you to revive this incredibly necessary and urgent work and to prioritize evidence-based policies and sustained support for survivors.

Enclosed is a resource package titled "[Bill 173 - The Current State of Intimate Partner Violence in Ontario](#)." It includes a joint letter and research-backed recommendations addressing the needs of women and gender-diverse individuals affected by IPV. The package has been endorsed 83 times, by our community representing sectors



including: The Anti-Violence Against Women (VAW) sector, Health and Social Services, Homelessness and Shelters Sector, Private sector, Legal services, Indigenous organizations, Rural, Counselling services, and broader Community Members and Survivors. Additionally, we have also attached [WomanACT's Written Submission to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy](#) as part of its study on IPV.

We urge you to prioritize the advancement of Bill 173 through the legislative process. Your support is vital to sending a clear message to Ontarians that their government is committed to addressing IPV and ending gender-based violence. Prompt action will tell all Ontarians that the Legislature is serious about ending IPV and GBV, and that their elected officials value and enact upon protecting their inherent rights.

We remain optimistic that you will acknowledge the urgency of the ongoing intimate partner violence epidemic our province is experiencing by immediately reviving and passing Bill 173. We applaud your shared commitment to this vision for our province and our community, and we welcome an opportunity to discuss the resource package provided and its corresponding recommendations with you and your team further.

Sincerely,

Harmony Mendoza

Executive Director of WomanACT

Cc: MPP Jess Dixon, jess.dixon@pc.ola.org

Cc: MPP Kristin Wong, KWT-QP@ndp.on.ca

The organizations and entities listed below formally endorse this letter:

Alternatives for Women

Aura Freedom International

Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario

Ernestine's Women's Shelter



Interval House of Ottawa

Interval House, Toronto ON

IQ Business Events Inc.

Jessica Breault Psychotherapy

John Howard Society of Toronto

Kingston Interval House

Lanark County Interval House and Community Support

Lanark County Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Program

Luke's Place

METRAC - Action on Violence

Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto

Resolve Counselling Services Canada

Scarborough Women's Centre

Services aux victimes Prescott-Russell Victim Services

Sexual Assault Centre Kingston

The I Do! Project

The Redwood

Victim Services Toronto

Women Won't Forget

York Region Centre for Community Safety

YWCA Ontario

YWCA Toronto

Women's Habitat of Etobicoke

Amelia Rising SVSC

Coalition Prescott-Russell pour éliminer la violence faite aux femmes