



Dear Mayor Morgan and London City Council,

The LCCEWA is a network of organizations and programs working to end violence against women (VAW) and gender-based violence (GBV). Along with other municipalities across the province that have declared intimate partner violence (IPV) an epidemic, as Co-Chairs, along with the Executive committee, we are writing in strong support of this motion being put forward in our community.

We believe this is in keeping with, and strengthens, the strategic pillar – *A Safe London for Women, Girls & Gender-Diverse and Trans People*.

There is a growing understanding about the increasing rates of GBV/VAW in the country, province, and our own city. Frontline service providers have seen a sharp increase in requests for service, increase in the severity of cases, and a notable increase in femicides across the province. Across Ontario in 2022, 52 women were murdered. That is one femicide each week throughout the year. As of June 30th, 30 women have been murdered across the province and this number continues to grow. The impact of COVID-19 on people experiencing violence across the globe is known as the shadow pandemic. It will take all levels of government, service providers, and community to address this issue, but the first step is formally calling it what it is – an epidemic. Last year, **Anova & Women's Rural Resource Centre of Strathroy & Area, two of our key women's emergency shelters, turned away 2,166 women from shelter due to lack of beds & capacity.** This trend is captured on our Snapshot (attached) and is mirrored in many communities across Ontario.

The Ontario Association of Interval & Transitional Housing (OAITH) captures data monthly and issues femicide reports, highlighting the high rates of femicide in Ontario amidst the ongoing calls for municipal and the provincial governments to declare IPV an epidemic. More information is available on their website - <https://www.oaith.ca/oaith-work/we-count-femicide-because/monthly-femicide-snapshots.html>

When this motion is passed, the City of London will join other municipalities that are taking a leadership role in recognizing the crisis and responding to declare the killing of women an epidemic. Naming the problem as an epidemic is a first step to meaningful change. In December 2022, Lanark County was the first to declare IPV an epidemic. We ask the City of London to do the same.

London has taken a leadership role in including a strategic pillar that protects women, girls, and gender diverse individuals. But continued engagement with, and investment in, the community on this issue will be critical to ensuring the safety of those experiencing GBV/VAW in our city.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with City Council to protect the most vulnerable individuals in our community.

Sincerely,



Jessie Rodger, LCCEWA Co-Chair, Executive Director, Anova
jessier@anovafuture.org



Jennifer Dunn, LCCEWA Co-Chair, Executive Director, London Abused Women's Centre
jen@lawc.on.ca

SNAPSHOT 2022

Measuring the success and strength by the health and wellbeing of all citizens.

KEY

TVAMHS Thames Valley Addiction & Mental Health Services
WRRCSA Women’s Rural Resource Centre of Strathroy & Area
LAWC London Abused Women’s Centre

DV Domestic violence
SV Sexual violence
HT Human trafficking



Community profile

- 543,551** Population
6.37% increase over 2021
- 29%** Londoner’s identify as a visible minority
- 3 in 4** London’s new residents were immigrants
- 13,675** Indigenous people in London, making up 2.6% of the population.
- \$18.05/hr** Living wage in London
Min. wage \$15.50 Oct 2022, deficit gap of \$2.55hr or \$408/month, Ontario Living Wage Network
London is the 4th fastest growing city in Canada
Most common languages – Arabic, Spanish, Mandarin, Portuguese, Hindi
Oneida of the Thames, 1 of 3 FN’s reserves in London & Middlesex, has had a boil water advisory since 2019



Employment, Social Assistance & Housing

- 6230** Individuals or households on wait list for rent-geared-to-income housing
(19.8% increase over 2020)
- \$1455** Average cost of 1-bedroom apartment
(34.8% increase since 2019)
- 2,241** People experiencing homelessness
- 21.4%** Renting households spending more than 30% of income on housing
12.1% Ontario average - Affordable housing is defined as spending less than 30% of income on housing
- 17,058** Monthly average of beneficiaries on Ontario Works



Crisis & Helplines

- 8,244** Children’s mental health crisis calls
137% increase over 2020, Vanier
- 27,137** Mental health crisis interactions
52.4% increase over 2021, CMHA Reach Out
- 24,261** Mental health support calls
71.9% increase over 2020, CMHA
- 2,704** Mental health & addictions Crisis Centre visits
59% increase in case management due to complexity of cases, CMHA TVAMHS
- 1,651** Crisis Response Team Interactions
171.1% increase over 2021
- 10,274** DV/SV calls crisis calls
54.4% increase over 2021, Anova, Atlohsa, WRRCSA



Policing & Justice

Total Incidents Reported:

	London	Middlesex	Strathroy
DV	1,224 ↓ .25%	403 ↓ 6.45%	208 ↓ 2.4%
SV	546 ↑ 3.23%	48 ↑ 20.8%	23 ↓ 65.2%
HT	71 ↓ 15.5%	7 ↓ 142.8%	0 no change
522	DV offender program completions <i>Changing Ways, Partner Assault Program, Being the Change Program</i>		
195	Outreach supports to victims/current partners <i>Changing Ways, Partner Assault Program, Being the Change Program</i>		
90	Dads, 196 children & 110 mothers <i>Changing Ways, Caring Dads Program</i>		
1148	Counselling for individuals involved with the justice system <i>John Howard Society</i>		



Children & Youth

- 1 in 5** Children struggle with mental health issues
- 1106** Supervised access exchange transfers
DV was #1 reason – Merrymount
- 551** Child protection files open due to DV
20.6% of all assessments
- 23.9%** Children and youth in care who identify as FNIM
- 252** Individuals in Youth Emergency Shelter
- 240** Pediatric sexual assault incidents
15% increase over 2021, Regional SA & DV Treatment Centre



Poverty & Homelessness

- 20,000** Londoners visiting the Food Bank
38% increase over 2021
- 38%** London Food Bank users younger than 17
#1 reason for visiting the Food Bank is increase in rental costs
- 350** Youth accessing monthly Food Bank
Youth Opportunities Unlimited
- 10%** Overall food cost increase from 2021 – 2022
Fastest increase in in over 30 years
- 470%** Increase in Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Access Centre clients reporting food insecurity
- 354** Homeless deaths
- 500** Times a month individuals turned away from Resting Space shelter
290% increase over 2021, London Cares
- 307%** Increase in the total number of calls received for homeless outreach
London Cares
- 498%** Increase in number of urban campsites visited
London Cares



Safety & Supports

- 618** Women & children in emergency shelter due to DV
Multiple sites
- 2,166** Times women turned away from shelter due to lack of beds
Represents a 62% increase over 2021, Anova, WRRCSA
- 52** Average number of days women spent in emergency shelter
Anova
- 2,670** Adult SV & DV cases
Regional SA & DV Treatment Centre
- 24,691** Individuals served in DV/SV/HT counselling
Multiple sites
- 25%** Increase in new clients of crime or tragic circumstances
Victim Services
- 15,308** Individuals receiving addiction & mental health services
20% increase in those receiving service for the first time, CMHA TVAMHS
- 14,505** Client visits to safe consumption services
Carepoint
- 24,786** Client visits to Counterpoint needle & syringe project
- 186** Opioid poisoning & overdoses reversed
- 872** Interpretation hours for newcomers
25 languages, most requested language was Spanish, followed by Arabic & Vietnamese

LCCEWA is a network of organizations, groups and individuals in London & Middlesex dedicated to ending woman abuse through leadership & actions that achieve both social justice for women & an integrated response to women and their children. Membership includes cross-sector organizations including child protection, justice sector, health, adult & children's mental health, violence against women, community counselling, research, education, family supports, Indigenous & Francophone.