



# BPW Canada

**The Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women**  
**La Fédération Canadienne de Femmes de Carrières Commerciales et Professionnelles**

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August 30, 2017

Chair and Members  
 Community and Protective Services Committee, 4pm

**Subject: Letter of Support for London Becoming a 'Safe City'**

I am writing on behalf of BPW Canada to convey our support for the project being proposed by the Mayor's Office of the City of London alongside Anova, to take part in the UN Women's Safe City Initiative.

BPW Canada (The Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women) was founded in 1930, and is affiliated with the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International). Our vision is to achieve a just and equal status for women in all levels and areas of society where decisions are taken in true partnership with men, based on mutual respect, for a more balanced and peaceful world.

My role as Chair of the Women's Empowerment Committee is to promote the seven principles for Women's empowerment established by UN Women and UN Global Compact (see attached), which include "ensuring the health, safety and well-being of all women and men workers" while maintaining respect for all workers, free from harassment and violence. We promote the principles through public awareness and by obtaining signatories to the Statement of Support for the principles. In fact, the City of London passed a Motion in Council on June 12, 2012 to support the principles and the Statement of Support was signed by Mayor Joe Fontana on June 23, 2012 (see attached documents).

At the Annual General Meeting of BPW Canada held in Moncton NB on August 12, 2017, we supported a resolution to the Government of Canada "to review and investigate sexual assault and violence cases that the RCMP and all Canadian Law Enforcement categorized as unfounded between 2010 and 2015".

There has been recent attention in the media to local instances of sexual violence - on our city's public transit, and the mis-categorization by police services of sexual assault survivors' cases as 'unfounded. We believe there is a key role to be played by Council and the Mayor's Office in calling attention to the issue of sexual violence in London, particularly to sexual violence and harassment in public spaces. Our City has taken progressive stances on many social justice issues and we feel that we are well primed to take leadership in addressing gender-based sexual violence.

We are incredibly energized by the pledge from the Mayor's Office and Anova to take on becoming a 'Safe City', and we are fully committed to supporting this initiative.

BPW Canada is pleased to provide this letter of support and we look forward to getting started on making London a 'Safe City'.

Yours Sincerely,

*Doris Hall*

**Doris E. Hall, Past President, BPW Canada**  
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