

<b>Request for Regional council Consideration</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Agenda Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one working day prior to meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b>
<p><b>Date of Meeting: August 9, 2022</b></p> <p><b>Subject: Endorsement of Kiera's Law</b></p>		
<p><b>Motion for Regional Council to Consider:</b></p> <p>That Halifax Regional Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Waive Section 17 of Administrative Order 1 and the requirement for a staff report, and</li> <li>2. That the Mayor write a letter to the Prime Minister copied to Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Interim Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Leader of the Bloc Quebecois, Leader of the New Democratic Party, and HRM MPs calling upon the House of Commons to support Member of Parliament, Anju Dhillon, Private Member's Bill C-233 (Kiera's Law), that will raise the level of education on domestic violence and coercive control for federally appointed Judges in Canada.</li> </ol> <p><b>Reason:</b></p> <p>Violence against women is a Canadian public health crisis that demands urgent action. One in four women experience domestic violence in their lifetime. One woman or girl is killed every other day, on average, somewhere in our country. According to the National Judicial Institute, there is no mandatory education for Judges on domestic violence. Judges need education on what constitutes domestic violence or coercive control. A formal education program would ensure another line of defense for victims, as well as preventing violence and abuse before it happens.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the domestic violence crisis. Women's shelters and crisis centres have reported a marked increase in requests for services this year. The concerns for children are significant. According to recent research from The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, doctors have seen more than double the number of babies with serious injuries as this time last year. These include head injuries, broken bones or in some cases death. Institutions across the country are reporting a similar trend.</p> <p>HRP reported: <i>Between 2019-2022 YTD (YTD: June 2, 2022) the most common incident that was flagged was assault level 1; with 772 incidents over the four years, followed by assault with a weapon causing bodily harm; with 280 incidents. Of the four years 2021 saw the highest number of family violence flagged incidents with 548 incidents. As of June 2, 2022, there were 106 incidents year to date.</i></p> <p>Keira's Law is named after four-year-old Keira Kagan, who was killed while in the custody of her father, in 2020, and voting in favour of "Keira's Law", contained in Private Member's Bill C-233, will not only protect victims of violence and children, it will save lives by amending the Judges Act to establish seminars for judges on intimate partner violence and coercive control.</p> <p><b>Outcome Sought:</b> endorsement and letter</p>		
<p><i>Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon (motion)</i> <i>Councillor Wayne Mason (second)</i></p>	<p><i>District 1</i> <i>District 7</i></p>	