

## **THIRTY FEMICIDES HAVE NOW BEEN REPORTED IN ONTARIO IN THE SAME NUMBER OF WEEKS**



***Province and municipalities torn over whether or not to call Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic.***

TORONTO, ON. (Wednesday July 5th, 2023) - Today, the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH) released their [June 2023 Femicide Snapshot](#) which reveals that in just thirty weeks, thirty femicide victims have lost their lives to gender-based violence. There have been twenty nine men either charged or deemed responsible for taking their lives. This [disturbing year over year trend](#) tells us by next week ***another woman in Ontario is very likely to be killed by a man closely known to her.*** Gender-Based Violence services are responding to thousands of survivors and their children across the province every day who are experiencing violence and are caught in a complicated web of abhorrent conditions and entrenched system failure.

**In just** thirty weeks femicides have occurred in Brampton, Burlington, Caledon, Chute-à-Blondeau, Deep River, Eganville, Hamilton, London, Markham, Mississauga, New Tecumseth, Oshawa, Peterborough, St. Catharines, The Blue Mountains, Toronto, Vaughan, Waterford and Windsor.

**In just** thirty weeks more than thirty municipalities have declared intimate partner violence and gender-based violence an epidemic in response to the recommendations in the Culleton, Warmerdam and Kuzyk Inquest. The Province of Ontario has chosen not to call intimate partner violence an epidemic, in spite of this recommendation.

This call, to *name* the veracity of the gender-based violence crisis, is not new. Over the years, there have been many calls to declare gender-based violence a 'Human Rights Violation, a 'Public Health Emergency', 'The War on Women', 'Hatred towards Women', 'Misogyny' and now, "Epidemic" - These many calls have been made by those who experience violence, those who support them and now inquest jurors. ***Every level of government in Ontario has a responsibility to answer these calls and to announce what their plan is to address.***

Over the past thirty years in Ontario, hundreds of recommendations have emerged from [inquests](#) of women killed by former or current male intimate partners. Sadly, these same recommendations are repeated time and time again, because they have not been

Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses has been [tracking femicide](#) in Ontario since 1995. *Help Us Bring an End to Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.*

enacted. Over the past thirty years, the number of women and children being killed every week is increasing, not decreasing. When so many of the answers have been presented to governments - this is the very definition of systemic failure.

More urgency is necessary to enact a provincial gender-based violence strategy and to formalize the federal and provincial National Action Plan Agreement in Ontario. Municipalities must do more to actualize the declarations they've made through their Community Safety and Well Being Plans, showing their commitment to ending gender-based violence, by bringing investments to the table – resolutions and declarations will need dollars behind them to fortify and effect the significant and necessary change required.

Horrifically, men's use of violence, fuelled by hatred, yet again, found its way into a public institution last week at the University of Waterloo, when a twenty-four year old man, and former student at the university, targeted a gender studies class and stabbed three people, two of whom were women, including the professor, and one man. We must identify this for what it is, and lean into these tensions to create the transformation we desperately need to address this injustice.

*“Movements with ideological views of sex and gender, gender-roles, class and race are building momentum, creating a groundswell of hatred against the most marginalized and vulnerable people in our society. **The spread of hatred and hate-motivated crimes is on the rise, including hate-motivated harassment and violence, gender-based violence and femicide.** We must address this immediately and compel actionable change,”* - Marlene Ham, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses.

### **Additional Resources:**

[What is Gender-Based Violence?](#)

[Ontario Crisis Lines and Gender-Based Violence Support Services-Mulberry Finder](#)

[Femicide Media Reporting Recommendations](#)

[June 2023 Femicide Snapshot - English](#)

[June 2023 Femicide Snapshot - French](#)

[More Than 52 Femicides in 52 Weeks: 2021 2022 Ontario Femicide Analysis](#)

Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses has been [tracking femicide](#) in Ontario since 1995. *Help Us Bring an End to Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.*

## Thirty Femicides In Just Thirty Weeks-Snapshot:

Of the thirty femicides reported in the last thirty weeks by media:

- 30% of cases have reported that current/former male intimate partners have been charged or deemed to be responsible
- 23.3% of cases have reported that a male family member has been charged or deemed to be responsible
- 20% of cases have reported that the male charged or deemed responsible was known to victim, however the type of relationship wasn't reported
- 20% of cases reported by the media have not indicated the relationship between the victim and perpetrator. This information is typically the responsibility of the police to release this to the media.
- 6.7% of cases reported that the male had no prior relationship to the victim, but the details suggest the femicide was targeted and gendered.
- The youngest victim was 9 years old, and the oldest was 90. The youngest perpetrator was 18 and the oldest was 81 years of age.
- In the last thirty weeks December saw the highest number of femicides with 9 in total reported during that month.
- In Ontario 19 different communities have had to endure the impact of a femicide. From small towns to Ontario's largest city, femicides have occurred in most areas of the province.

### Media Inquiries:

Marlene Ham, Executive Director  
Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses  
[info@oaith.ca](mailto:info@oaith.ca) | 416-977-6619 ext 103  
[www.oaith.ca](http://www.oaith.ca) | [www.mulberryfinder.ca](http://www.mulberryfinder.ca)