

Advocating with the Regional Municipality of Waterloo to endorse a resolution calling upon the Province of Ontario to provide increased and sustainable funding for community-based Sexual Assault Support Centres

**Resolution
June 2022**

1. Item for Discussion – Support for the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region to Receive Increased and Sustainable Provincial Funding

WHEREAS the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region has provided prevention education, advocacy, and support for survivors of recent or historical sexual violence in the area since 1989;

AND WHEREAS the number of survivors needing access to crisis counselling and long-term counselling programs has increased substantially since 1989;

AND WHEREAS ongoing underfunding of the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region has reduced the number of resources available to provide these services due to highly specialized skill requirements that are unmatched by low wages and benefits relative to other mental health funded positions;

AND WHEREAS the current COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in increased people in the community requiring the services of the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region;

AND WHEREAS sexual violence disproportionately impacts our community's most vulnerable members including women and girls, trans, and non-binary people, people with disabilities, and people who identify as Black, First Nations, Metis, Indigenous, racialized, and/or 2SLGBTQIA+.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT increased and sustainable provincial funding for the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region and other community-based sexual assault centres be supported for priority consideration by the Provincial Government and its agencies.