



End Violence
Alliance
RENFREW COUNTY

2026 Municipal Election Toolkit

**WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE BY
SPEAKING-UP**

Gender-based violence is a violation of human rights that can happen to anyone; it is rooted in power and control and includes any harmful act directed at a person because of their gender, gender expression, gender identity, or perceived gender; it includes, but is not limited to, physical and sexual violence, emotional and economic abuse, coercion, stalking, street and criminal harassment, intimate-partner violence, human trafficking, and femicide. **Gender-based violence has a negative impact on everyone and EVA Renfrew County believes that ending gender-based violence is everyone's responsibility.**

Violence Against Women Coordinating Committees (VAWCCs), like EVA Renfrew County, bring together specialized anti-gender-based violence organizations, allies from legal and medical systems, as well as housing and social services to serve as dedicated local infrastructure for identifying gaps, strengthening community practice, and coordinating action across the systems that encounter people experiencing or using violence. Where they exist, these committees function with very little funding or support, doing very complex work, off the side of desks. **Municipal councils should recognize and draw on the GBV expertise that already exists in their communities.** VAWCCs and local anti-violence leaders can help municipalities understand patterns of violence and risk, identify priorities, and guide Community Safety and Wellbeing planning. Councils can strengthen this work by investing in VAWCCs financially and by ensuring municipal services participate in community coordination, inviting survivors and VAWCC leaders into relevant planning and decision-making.

We can make a difference by speaking-up.

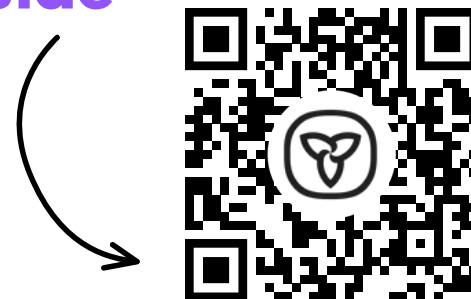
RegisterToVoteOn.ca

Ensure that you're eligible to vote by visiting the website above; you must contact your Municipal Clerk to add, remove, or change your voter information on or after September 1, 2026, when the official voter list was prepared. Your Municipal Clerk is also the main point of contact for information about voting by mail or internet voting.

If having your name and address available on the voters' list would endanger your life, health or security, you can request that the Chief Electoral Officer redact your information (Government of Ontario).

**ELECTION DAY
IS MONDAY,
OCTOBER 26TH,
2026.**

Scan for the
official Voter's
Guide



Upcoming All Candidates Meetings

**Town of Arnprior | Thurs. Sept. 24th, 5pm @ Arnprior Legion,
49 Daniel St. N.**

<https://arnpriortoday.ca/2026/09/01/arnprior-candidate-meet-and-greet/>

**City of Pembroke | (Mayoral Candidates) Tues, Sept. 22nd,
7pm; (Council Candidates) Tues., Sept. 29th, 7pm @ Festival
Hall in Pembroke**

<https://www.pembroketoday.ca/2026/08/11/festival-hall-to-host-two-debates-ahead-of-pembroke-municipal-election/>

**Town of Petawawa | Weds. Sept. 30th, 6:30pm @ Petawawa
Civic Centre, Upstairs Hall**

<https://petawawa.ca/events/all-candidates-meeting-2026-municipal-election/>

**Townships of Admaston/Bromley and North Algona
Wilberforce | Fri. Oct. 2nd, 10am @ ECHO Centre, Eganville**

<https://www.facebook.com/eganvilleseniors/>

**Township of Bonnechere Valley | Fri. Oct. 2nd, 1pm @ ECHO
Centre, Eganville**

<https://www.facebook.com/eganvilleseniors/>

**Township of Madawaska Valley | Tues. Oct. 6th, 7pm @ Barry's
Bay Legion**

<https://madawaskavalleylibrary.ca/2026-municipal-election-all-candidates-meeting/>

**Town of Renfrew | Tues. Oct, 6th, 7pm @ MyFM Centre, Ma-Te-
Way Park**

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=29308190038770092&set=a.686807004668444>

**Township of Laurentian Valley | Weds. Oct. 7th, 7pm @
Farmstead Weddings & Events**

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10175540290275191&set=gm.2080290862578549>

**Township of Horton | Thurs. Oct. 8th, 7pm @ Horton
Community Centre**

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19j32CLr6f/>

**Many local
candidates
and their
campaign
priorities are
profiled here**



Help EVA call on candidates to:

- 1. Declare that gender-based violence is an epidemic (CKW Inquest Recommendation #1) in all municipalities across Renfrew County.**
- 2. Make gender-based violence a priority consideration in updated Community Safety and Wellbeing Plans.**
- 3. Work with local anti-gender-based violence leaders - especially local Indigenous Two-Spirit and women knowledge keepers and EVA's member agencies - to ensure that Renfrew County is properly equipped for real safety.**
- 4. Support the Call for a non-partisan Ontario GBV Commissioner to bridge between elected leaders and community experts to prevent gender-based violence.**
- 5. Bring informed awareness of Red Flag Laws to Renfrew County's police services boards.**
- 6. Continue to promote survivor-led anti-human trafficking education in Renfrew County school boards.**
- 7. Continue to advocate for safe, accessible public transit options that reduce geographic isolation in our rural County. Continue to advocate for safe, affordable housing and implement a gender-based violence lens on infrastructure decisions in our community.**

Following the murders of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam in September, 2015, community members in Renfrew County and our allies across Ontario successfully advocated for a coroner's inquest into these femicides. The Renfrew County CKW Inquest, like the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, resulted in clear recommendations for change, including those directed at government officials.

End Violence Alliance Renfrew County, supported by our Provincial allies named in this 2026 Election Toolkit, are again calling on all municipal candidates to commit to the following urgent actions...

Declare that gender-based violence is an epidemic (CKW Inquest Recommendation #1) in all municipalities across Renfrew County; this is a step that we can take to demonstrate our commitment to ending the harms of gender-based violence and to signal to survivors that they are not alone.

Several municipal governments and the County of Renfrew have already done this, and we call on these municipalities to commit to respond to the intimate partner violence epidemic and implement meaningful changes to end it.

Recommendation #10 from the CKW Inquest calls for the inclusion of intimate partner violence in Community Safety and Wellbeing Plans. Ontario's Provincial Government says its jurisdiction does not extend to mandating what goes into the individual plans developed by each municipality. **Prioritize gender-based violence in updated Community Safety and Wellbeing Plans in order to acknowledge that gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence, is a serious and public problem. This commits local government and community to continue to be a part of responding to and addressing the problem of gender-based violence.**



Has your government declared intimate partner violence (IPV) an epidemic?



Town of Arnprior
Township of Brudenell,
Lyndoch and Raglan
Town of Laurentian Hills
Town of Petawawa
Town of Renfrew
Township of
Bonnechere Valley
United Townships of Head,
Clara and Maria
Township of Killaloe,
Hagarty and Richards
Township of
Madawaska Valley
North Algona
Wilberforce Township
Township of
Whitewater Region
County of Renfrew

Town of Deep River
Township of
Admaston/Bromley
Township of
Greater Madawaska
Township of Horton
Township of
Laurentian Valley
Township of
McNab/Braeside
City of Pembroke

What does
it mean
that the
Government
of Ontario
has
declared IPV
“endemic”?



Because gender-based violence is an epidemic, the organizations working to address it should be funded as essential services. Survivors deserve predictable access to supportive services and frontline workers need stable funding to receive appropriate and ongoing training as well as provide safety resources and outreach services in a timely and effective manner. Municipal government, especially Mayors in Ontario, have strong advocacy with the Provincial Government. **Work with anti-gender-based violence leaders in our community, like EVA and our member organizations, to ensure that Renfrew County is properly equipped for real safety.**

Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit kin are disproportionately impacted by gender-based violence and must be at the centre of our efforts to end this violence. Each preventable death from gender-based and intimate partner violence demonstrates the need to directly address the social inequities and injustices at the root of this discrimination: racism, colonialism, ageism, homophobia and transphobia, substance dependence, poverty, ableism, xenophobia, geographic isolation in rural communities, and houselessness. **Support the Call for a non-partisan Ontario GBV Commissioner to bridge between elected leaders and community experts to keep our collective focus on preventing and ending the epidemic of gender-based violence in all its forms.**

Our neighbours and loved ones who are most vulnerable to gender-based violence are at greater risk in rural communities because of a lack of access to safer, reliable transportation - especially in places like Renfrew County where there are very limited public transit options. Our neighbours and loved ones who are most vulnerable to gender-based violence also deserve safe, affordable housing, especially if they are attempting to get free from violence.

Municipal governments have the power to create meaningful access, for survivors and all constituents, to safer, reliable public transportation and affordable housing - this requires municipal governments to take-on a gender-based violence lens on infrastructure decisions in our community.

Survivors, even when supported by EVA and our sector allies, cannot advocate for safety changes alone - we need the support of concerned community members like you.

From our allies at Lanark County Interval House: *“Canada recently introduced Red Flag Laws to help prevent firearm- and weapon-related harm before it happens. These laws allow a judge to temporarily prohibit someone from possessing firearms or other weapons, or to restrict their access to another person’s firearms, when there are serious safety concerns. Red Flag Laws may be relevant when someone is likely to harm: their current or former partner; a family member; another person; or themselves. These orders are meant to reduce immediate danger and create time for longer-term safety planning. They are not criminal charges and do not automatically create a criminal record. If someone is in immediate danger, call 911”* (<https://lcih.org/canadas-red-flag-laws/>). **Red Flag Laws matter in Renfrew County because of the presence of firearms in rural communities “for hunting, farming, sport, recreation or employment. Most firearm owners store and use their firearms responsibly. However, when threats, coercive control, stalking, escalating violence or a crisis are present, access to firearms can significantly increase the risk of serious harm”** (<https://lcih.org/canadas-red-flag-laws/>). It is essential that elected officials, who sit on local police service boards, understand Red Flag Laws and their importance in addressing gender-based violence in Renfrew County.

“Ontario has the highest number of police-reported human trafficking cases in Canada and the average age of recruitment into sex trafficking in Canada is 13 years of age. Due to almost daily contact with students, teachers and other education staff are well placed to educate on prevention and promote healthy relationships, notice troubling changes in behaviour, and connect with students as caring adults. By training staff to recognize the signs of sex trafficking, they will be better equipped to identify the cues and safely intervene if they suspect a student is being trafficked or involved in trafficking. Education can also serve as a key factor in helping survivors of trafficking heal and rebuild their lives, helping to prevent re-victimization and resetting students on a healing trajectory towards positive outcomes” (Government of Ontario, <https://www.ontario.ca/document/education-ontario-policy-and-program-direction/policyprogram-memorandum-166#foot-3>).

This election, voters will also influence who stands as representatives for local school boards. It is essential that these representatives continue to support survivor-led healthy relationships and anti-human trafficking education. EVA Renfrew County and our member agencies help empower survivors to share their stories in safer ways; we will continue to elevate survivors’ voices and connect them to opportunities for public education - especially with local 2SLGBTQIA+ and Indigenous youth.

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Your Voice Matters!



“Elected officials are expected to represent the interests of their constituents (the people who live in their designated area).”

Share what matters to you when candidates come to your door or at all candidates meetings. You can also call, email, or send a personalized letter to any candidates running for elected office. Start by introducing yourself as a constituent, then use the “EPIC” format to communicate what’s important to you:

E = Engage

Make a short, true statement to get their attention. You can try using statistics or quotes. Ex. “Rates of police-reported intimate partner violence experienced by rural women in Canada are 75% higher than those for urban women” (*Western University CREVAWC, 2021*).

P = Problem

Clearly state the problem and how it impacts your community. Ex. Many, but not all municipalities in Renfrew County have declared intimate partner violence an epidemic. Silence and stigma about gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence, leads to preventable deaths.

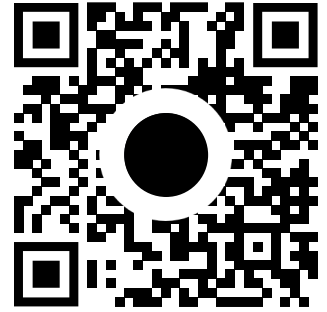
I = Inform

Describe what needs to change to make things better. Ex. Renfrew County needs an updated Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan that includes prevention and intervention measures for directly addressing gender-based violence.

C = Call to Action

Invite candidates to find solutions to the problems facing your community by consulting with the right experts and stakeholders. Ex. Can we count on you to make sure that the next Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan is developed together with survivors of gender-based violence and local anti-violence organizations to ensure that it is as impactful as possible?

**Read the Renfrew
County CKW Inquest
Recommendations here.**



evarenfrewcounty.ca