

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 11, 2010**

**PROCLAMATION REQUEST**  
**SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION MONTH**

**Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That May 2010 be proclaimed as "Sexual Assault Prevention Month"; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

**Contribution to Sustainability**

N/A

**Economic Impact**

N/A

**Communications Plan**

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City's website under "Events – Proclamations" and on the City Page Online.

**Purpose**

To respond to the request received from the Women's Support Network of York Region.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

The correspondence received from the Women's Support Network of York Region, dated April 13, 2010, is attached. (Attachment 1)

The proclamation request meets the City's Proclamation Policy, as follows:

"That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters:

- (i) which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act". The Women's Support Network of York Region is a registered charity.

The Women's Support Network of York Region is a non-profit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors, whose services are offered by professionally trained staff as well as a core group of approximately sixty-five trained volunteers. Programs and services include Public Education and Outreach Program, Balanced Beginnings Program, and a 24-hour anonymous and confidential crisis line. The Women's Support Network of York Region's would like to raise awareness of the issue of sexual violence in the hope of fostering change in the behaviour of society. City Council has granted this request in the past.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

This report supports the strategic priorities established by Vaughan Vision 2020, in particular “Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness”.

**Regional Implications**

This proclamation will bring awareness, as the Women’s Support Network is a crisis centre serving all of York Region.

**Conclusion**

Staff is recommending that May 2010 be proclaimed as “Sexual Assault Prevention Month” and that the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page Online.

**Attachments**

Attachment 1 Correspondence from the Women’s Support Network of York Region, dated April 13, 2010

**Report prepared by:**

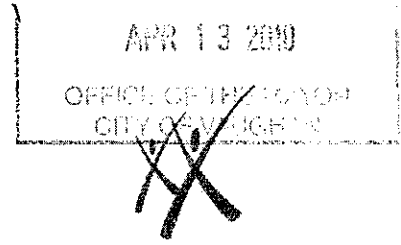
Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams  
City Clerk

www.womenssupportnetwork.ca  
1110 Stellar Drive, Unit 109  
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 7B7  
T: 905.895.3646 F: 905.895.6542  
Crisis Line: 905.895.7313  
1.800.263.6734

*Sent to  
Clerk's*



women's support network  
of york region

**Request for Proclamation by 9 Municipalities of York Region re:  
"Sexual Assault Prevention Month"**

Dear Mayor Linda D. Jackson and Members of Council, City of Vaughan,

Women's Support Network of York Region is the sexual assault/rape crisis centre serving all of York Region. WSN is a non-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Services are offered by professionally trained staff as well as a core group of approximately sixty-five trained volunteers. All services are free. Programs and services include:

- 24-hour, toll-free, anonymous and confidential crisis line (1-800-263-6734)
- Individual crisis counseling, as well as longer-term counseling.
- Public Education and Outreach Program, including presentations to high schools, community groups and organizations covering issues such as, sexual assault, acquaintance sexual assault, drug-facilitated sexual assault, sexual harassment, healthy relationships and empowerment.
- Balanced Beginnings Program, delivered in elementary schools to grades 7 and 8 boys and girls, combining physical activities with educational/preventative content. Participating students learn how to be effective communicators, inclusive leaders, understanding the difference between healthy and unhealthy dating relationships and the meaning of "no, means no".

May is "Sexual Assault Prevention Month" in Ontario. To acknowledge this important designation, the Women's Support Network of York Region is organizing our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual, region-wide initiative to provide public education and raise awareness of the issues of sexual violence in our communities, throughout the month of May.

With support and participation from various partners and individual community members, Women's Support Network of York Region will be ending the campaign with a walk across York Region, the first weekend of June 2010 (coinciding with "Sexual Harassment Awareness Week"). This Year's Walk is themed "Walk for Safe and Healthy Communities...Ending Sexual Violence, One Step at a Time". Participants are encouraged to take part in as much or as little of the walk as they can and are asked to collect pledges from sponsors for their efforts. For those who are unable to participate in the June weekend walk, there is the option of documenting 60km of walking either individually or amongst team members, throughout the month of May. A walker's

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information/registration package is available with further details, for those interested in participating.

We are walking for lives free from violence. This walk continues to be about bringing awareness in positive, inclusive and encouraging ways. We are walking for positive change. We are once again, 'walking our talk'.

Please contact us to learn more about how you, you organization and/or your business can play a part in building safe and healthy communities for everyone.

Monetary donations can be made to the Women's Support Network of York Region by sending a cheque or donating online at: [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)

Donations go directly to servicing women and girls who are survivors of sexual violence and supporting our mandate of eradicating sexualized violence from our community, for example:

**\$1400 provides a woman with counselling for one year.**

**\$4030 provides for the delivery of 31 public education presentations in York Region schools, and the broader community.**

**\$140.00 provides for the delivery of a workshop/seminar to a group.**

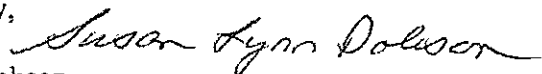
Any support you are able to provide is greatly appreciated.

**In 2009, 7 of the 9 municipalities in York Region proclaimed May as "Sexual Assault Prevention Month". Once again, in 2010, we are asking all 9 municipalities in York Region to show their support by partnering with Women's Support Network to send a clear message across the region that sexual violence is a serious issue that we as a society do not condone.**

**We need ongoing support from all levels of government, and society as a whole, to help raise and increase *awareness of the issue* of sexual violence, in the hope of fostering *change in the behaviour*, of society.**

**Will the Mayor and Members of Council proclaim May 2010 to be "Sexual Assault Prevention Month" in the City of Vaughan?**

Sincerely,



Susan Dobson  
Public Education Outreach Worker  
Women's Support Network of York Region