



FAMILY SERVICE TORONTO

For People. For Change.

April 17, 2024

FST STATEMENT

2nd Reading of Bill 173 – Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act

As an agency committed to ending gender-based violence, Family Service Toronto (FST) is pleased that Bill 173 – [Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act](#) – passed 2nd reading in the provincial legislature on April 10, 2024.

Family Service Toronto released a statement in July of 2023 urging the government to take this important action. Declaring intimate partner violence an epidemic helps to take it out of the shadows, debunking the idea that it is a private matter, and elevates it to a public health priority.

Bill 173, introduced as a Private Members' Bill and backed by the Government on 2nd reading, officially recognizes the scale, scope, and devastating impact of intimate partner violence as a public health crisis and epidemic in the Province of Ontario.

Family Service Toronto is heartened by this change in position by the Government of Ontario and urges the Government to act on all 86 recommendations of a 2022 Renfrew County Coroner's Inquest.

With the ongoing rise in femicides in Ontario, the need to address intimate partner violence with urgency cannot be overstated.

The lives of women impacted by intimate partner violence across our communities depend on decisive leadership and immediate action.

The time to act is now.

Family Service Toronto
April 17, 2024