

## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

WHEREAS “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” is an annual international campaign, running from November 25 through December 10, that calls on the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls;

WHEREAS the pandemic has been linked to an alarming increase in rates of violence against women, domestic violence reporting and domestic homicides, also known as the shadow pandemic;

WHEREAS 1 in 3 women worldwide will experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner, and emerging data has shown that all types of violence against women and girls has intensified during the pandemic;

WHEREAS the supply of women’s shelter space has decreased due to public health measures while simultaneously there has been a 30 percent increase in the rates of gender-based violence;

WHEREAS indigenous women and girls, and racialized, minority and vulnerable communities are more likely to be the victims of assault.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Region actively **PARTICIPATE** in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence by flying a campaign flag in the International Plaza from November 25 to December 10, 2021;
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop a communication strategy to increase awareness of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign; and
3. That the Regional Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to circulate a copy of this motion to the local area municipalities.