

CSC-C 18-2023

2. That the Niagara Regional Police Service **BE REQUESTED** to take a more assertive approach to responding to complaints of threats of violence, intimidation, and bullying of elected officials in Niagara;

4. That the Provincial Government **BE REQUESTED** to develop legislation and/or policies to protect elected officials from violence, threats of violence, intimidation, abuse, and bullying by other individuals; and

WHEREAS there have been many recent instances of violence, threats of violence, intimidation, abuse, and bullying by some individuals in the Niagara region against others for a variety of reasons other than legitimate differences of political views or opinions;

WHEREAS some elected officials in Niagara have been the subject of violent attacks, online harassment, and physical intimidation over the past several months;

WHEREAS elected officials are obligated to adhere to the provisions of codes of conduct that regulate their behaviour when serving the public; and

WHEREAS there is no excuse for bad behaviour by any individual against another.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Regional Council **AFFIRMS** that equity, diversity, and inclusion are core values that it supports and will continue to promote;

3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to investigate the following and provide a report to the Corporate Services Committee as soon as reasonably practical:

a) Creation of a program to educate the public on the benefits of equity, diversity and inclusion and conversely the damaging impacts of hate and intolerance;

b) Whether Council should consider the creation of a residents or citizens code of conduct to guide individuals engaging elected officials or attending meetings of Regional Council and its Committees and various advisory committees;

c) Any further information, data or recommendations that Council should consider to alleviate incidents of hate and intolerance in Niagara;

Bullying

**seek to harm, intimidate, or coerce  
(someone perceived as vulnerable).**

## National Center Against Bullying says:

Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. **It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power**, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening. Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and **it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert)**. Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records). Bullying of any form or for any reason can have **immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders.**

Single incidents and conflict or **fight**s between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

## National Center Against Bullying says:

Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

What bullying is not

- single episodes of social rejection or dislike
- single episode acts of nastiness or spite
- random acts of aggression or intimidation
- mutual arguments, disagreements or fights.

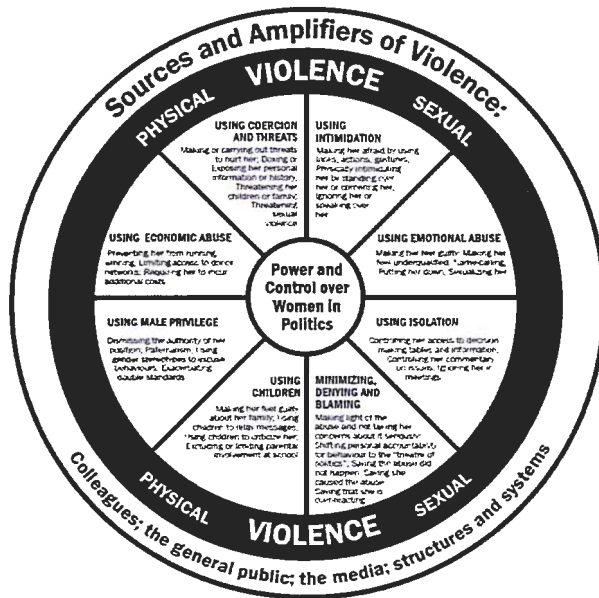
These actions can cause great distress. However, they do not fit the definition of bullying and they're not examples of bullying unless someone is deliberately and repeatedly doing them.



“There is no legislation that protects elected officials from this kind of behavior where – as I’ve said for years – people know how to walk \*right up to the line\* and not cross it, and that in walking \*right up to the line\* they are engaging in behaviour that would be considered coercive control (as found in the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters) and we must be very concerned about escalations in this behaviour (and it’s already been escalating)”

# Coercive Control (Duluth Model) applied to women in politics

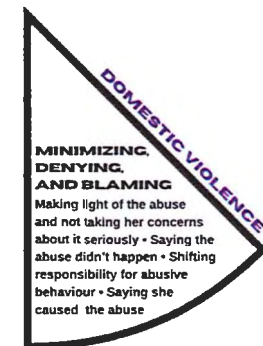
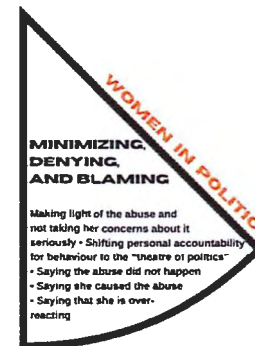
Figure 6: Power and Control Wheel for Women in Politics<sup>22</sup>



The wheel is a summary representation of the breadth of tactics commonly used to create and sustain this dynamic. Not every woman in politics who experiences violence will experience all the tactics listed nor will she necessarily experience them with the same frequency or to the same degree. Not every agent of that violence will employ all tactics

### Minimizing, Denying, Blaming

*Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously; Shifting personal accountability for behaviour to the "theatre of politics"; Saying the abuse did not happen; Saying she caused the abuse; Saying that she is over-reacting*



It's part of the game.  
If you can't handle it, don't run for office.  
It's not personal.  
"Quiet down, baby."<sup>24</sup>

Minimizing, denying, and blaming are tactics commonly used by abusers to normalize or justify their actions and deny the validity of any effects on the person experiencing the abuse. Tied closely to emotional abuse, this wedge of the wheel represents the undermining of a woman's authentic experience by downplaying and denying abuse or suggesting that she is at fault for what has happened to her.

### 3 Theory & Hypothesis Development

IPV is a negative, yet complex social interaction between individuals who are involved in an intimate relationship that involves violent episodes. The relationship partners likely serve many reciprocal social roles in each other's lives, such as romantic partners, provider-dependent dyads (or co-dependent dyads), possibly parenting partners, and abuser-victim dyads. IPV is also not necessarily unidirectional, as either partner may take on the role of abuser at different points in the relationship (Larsen and Hamberger, 2015). Given the complexity of relationships involving IPV, it is no surprise that individuals involved in IPV often have trouble making sense out of the dynamics and violent episodes involved in their relationships (Catlett et al., 2010).

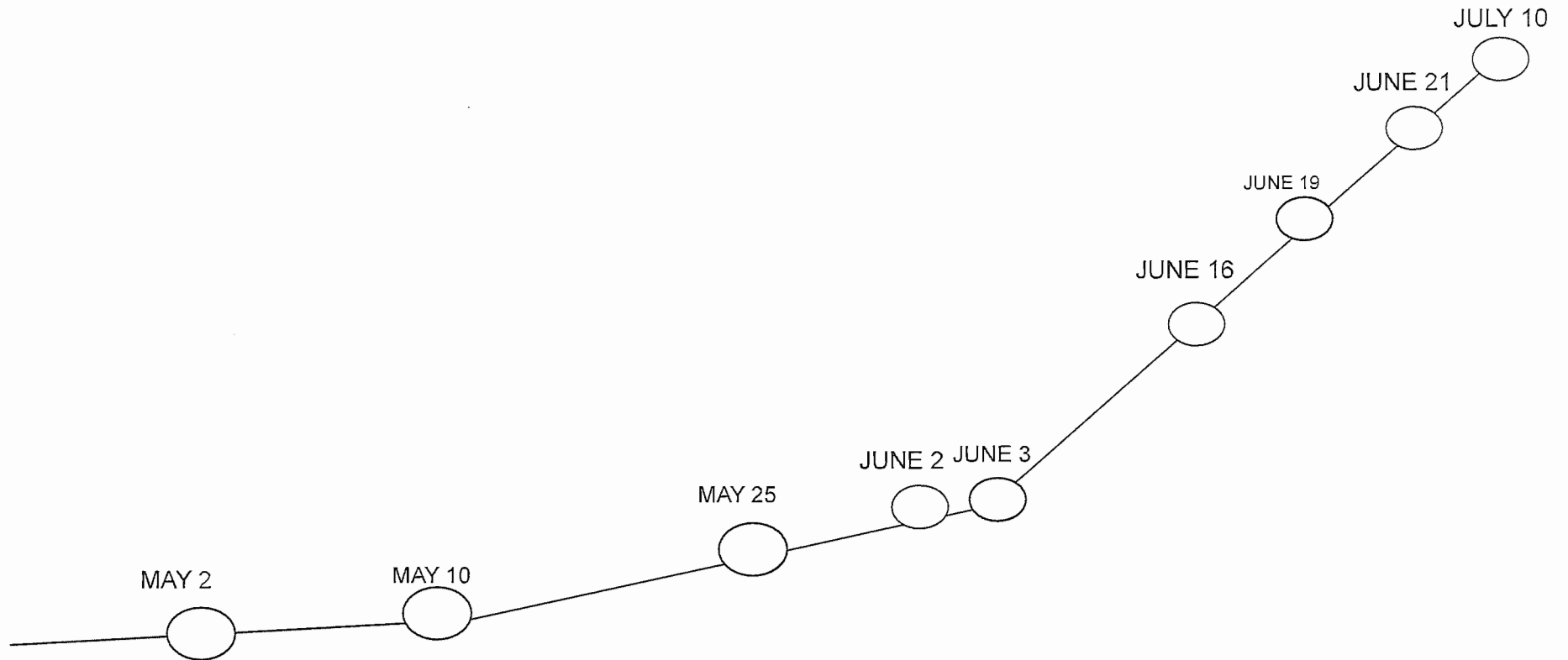
### Abstract

We use data from a three-year natural field experiment to study rates of recidivism in two types of diversion programs designed to reduce Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among heterosexual partners. In one program (*Duluth*), efforts are focused on protecting women from male aggression through a psycho-educational program, regardless of the offender's sex. In the other program (*CBT*), efforts are focused on improving intra-household behaviors and communication skills through cognitive-behavioral therapy counseling. Using frame analysis and identity theory, we hypothesize that *Duluth's negative framing of a male offender's role in IPV will lead to higher rates of recidivism, as compared to CBT, which instead frames the offender's role in such a way that minimizes identity threat in the process of adapting behavior.* In support of this hypothesis, we find that the IPV recidivism rate, measured as reconvictions for IPV, is 11 percentage points higher for offenders randomly assigned to a *Duluth* treatment program (14 percentage points higher among males). These experimental results are statistically and practically significant, indicating that the *Duluth* approach corresponds to meaningfully higher recidivism rates when compared to *CBT*, in a direct comparison of the two programs. To assess the robustness of our findings we extend the statistical inquiry to include several covariate-based analyses of the experimental data, additional recidivism measures, and survival analysis; each of these corroborates the primary experimental findings.

Negative framing of male offender's role

A way that minimizes identity threat in the process of adapting behavior

# TIMELINE: ESCALATION OF RECENT MONTHS





JUNE 21