



# Stephen Blais, MPP / Député

Orléans

March 20, 2023

Mayor Cam Guthrie  
City of Guelph  
1 Carden Street  
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Dear Mayor Guthrie:

Cities across Ontario are formally supporting my Private Members Bill, *Bill 5, Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act*, and I am writing to you as the mayor of one of the largest cities in Ontario to join support.

If passed, Bill 5 will create a process to vacate a Municipal Councillor's seat for violations of workplace violence and harassment. There must be more severe penalties for leaders who violate workplace violence and harassment policies to help deter these heinous acts.

Harassment and violence have no place in society, including in the workplace, and certainly no business around the municipal council table.

As more and more municipalities vote in support of Bill 5, I am calling on the City of Guelph to formally support Bill 5 to put pressure on the Ontario government to pass this important legislation. Just some of the other municipalities who have already formally supported Bill 5 include:

- City of Ottawa
- City of Barrie
- City of London
- Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
- Township of Springwater
- Township of Clearview
- City of Orillia
- Town of Collingwood
- Town of Wasaga Beach
- Township of Oro-Medonte
- City of Peterborough
- City of Kenora
- Town of Adjala-Tosorontio
- City of Woodstock
- Township of Tiny
- Township of Archipelago
- Township of Norwich
- Township of Ramara
- Town of New Tecumseth
- Essa Township
- Town of Penetanguishene
- Municipality of Kincardine

It is long overdue that municipal elected officials are held to the same standard as every other employee in Ontario.

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Having support from the City of Guelph would help put immense pressure on the Ontario government, and I hope to have the support of you and your council members.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Blais', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Blais  
Member of Provincial Parliament  
Orléans

SB/pp