Legislation and Advocacy on Gender-Based Violence



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CAUCUS

THREE TYPES OF BILLS

WHAT IS A BILL?

A bill is a proposal written in legal terms and introduced by a Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for consideration by the Legislature.
A bill can **propose new laws** or **amend existing laws**.

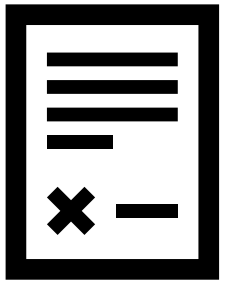
GOVERNMENT BILL	PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILL	PRIVATE BILL
Government Bills reflect the policy and priorities of the governing party and are introduced by Cabinet Ministers. They may impose taxes or direct the expenditure of public money.	**Private Members' Public Bills (PMBs)** are introduced by Members who are not Ministers. A PMB must address an area of provincial responsibility, but cannot direct the expenditure of public funds. A PMB can have up to three additional co-sponsors.	**Private Bills** are introduced by Members who are not Ministers to request a legal exemption on behalf of a municipality, company or individual (ie. to revive a dissolved corporation).

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HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW







First Reading
Purpose of bill is explained

Second Reading
Bill is debated in principle

Review by Committee
Public hearings may be held and amendments considered

Report to House
Committee reports bill with any amendments

Third Reading
Bill is debated and voted on for final approval

Royal Assent
Lieutenant Governor signs bill and it becomes law

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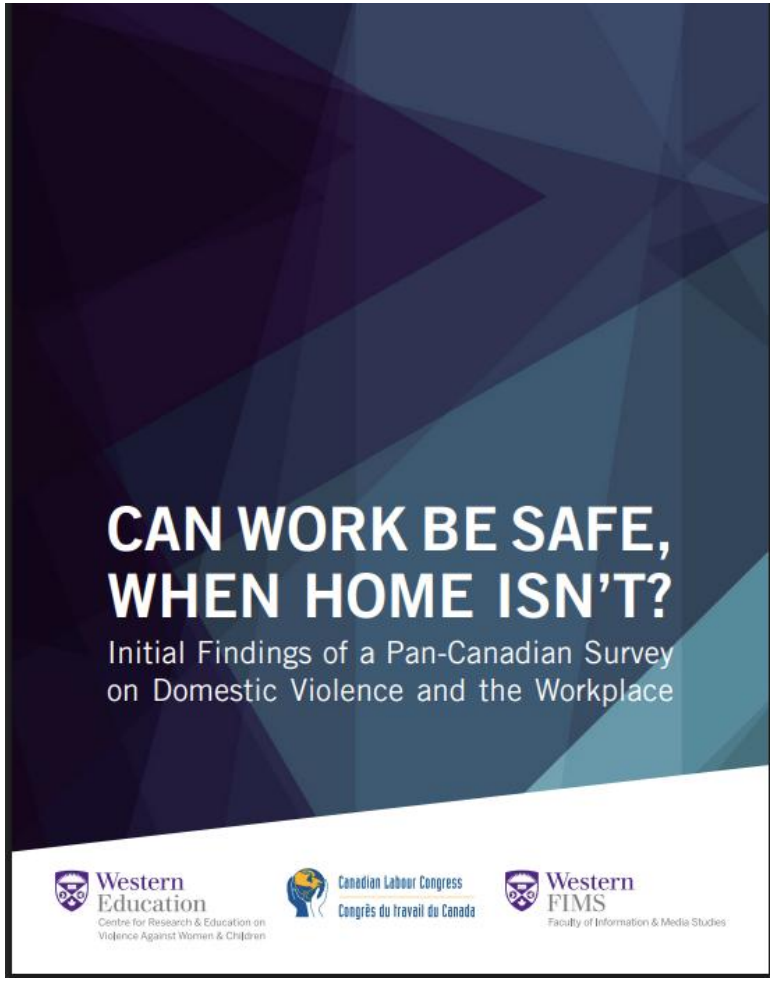
TWO CASE STUDIES

- Paid Leave for Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence
  - Bill 177, 2016 (PMB)
  - Bill 26, 2016 (PMB)
  - Bill 148, 2017 (Government Bill)

- Declaring Intimate Partner Violence as an Epidemic
  - Bill 173, 2024 (PMB)
  - Justice Committee Study (Government Motion)
  - Bill 55, 2025 (PMB)

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PAID LEAVE FOR DV/SV (2014 REPORT)



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PAID LEAVE FOR DV & SV (PMB)

- Bill 177, Domestic and Sexual Violence Workplace Leave, Accommodation and Training Act, 2016
  - Up to 10 days of paid leave if employees or their children have experienced domestic violence or sexual violence for purposes of accessing healthcare, counselling, rape crisis centre or women's shelter services, relocating, or dealing with police or the legal system
  - Mandatory workplace training on domestic violence and sexual violence.

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PAID LEAVE FOR DV & SV (PMB 1)

- Bill 177, Domestic and Sexual Violence Workplace Leave, Accommodation and Training Act, 2016

First Reading	Second Reading	PROROGATION
• March 8, 2016	• March 10, 2016 • Passed and referred to Standing Committee on Justice Policy	• September 8, 2016

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PAID LEAVE FOR DV & SV (PMB 2)

- Bill 26, Domestic and Sexual Violence Workplace Leave, Accommodation and Training Act, 2016

First Reading	Second Reading
• September 27, 2016	• October 20, 2016 • Passed and referred to Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly

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PAID LEAVE FOR DV & SV (GOVERNMENT BILL)

- Bill 148, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017

First Reading	Standing Committee	Reported as Amended
• June 1, 2017 • Two paid days of Personal Emergency Leave	• Hearings July-August, 2017 • 200+ Submissions	• September 11 • Additional 10 days unpaid leave for DV/SV

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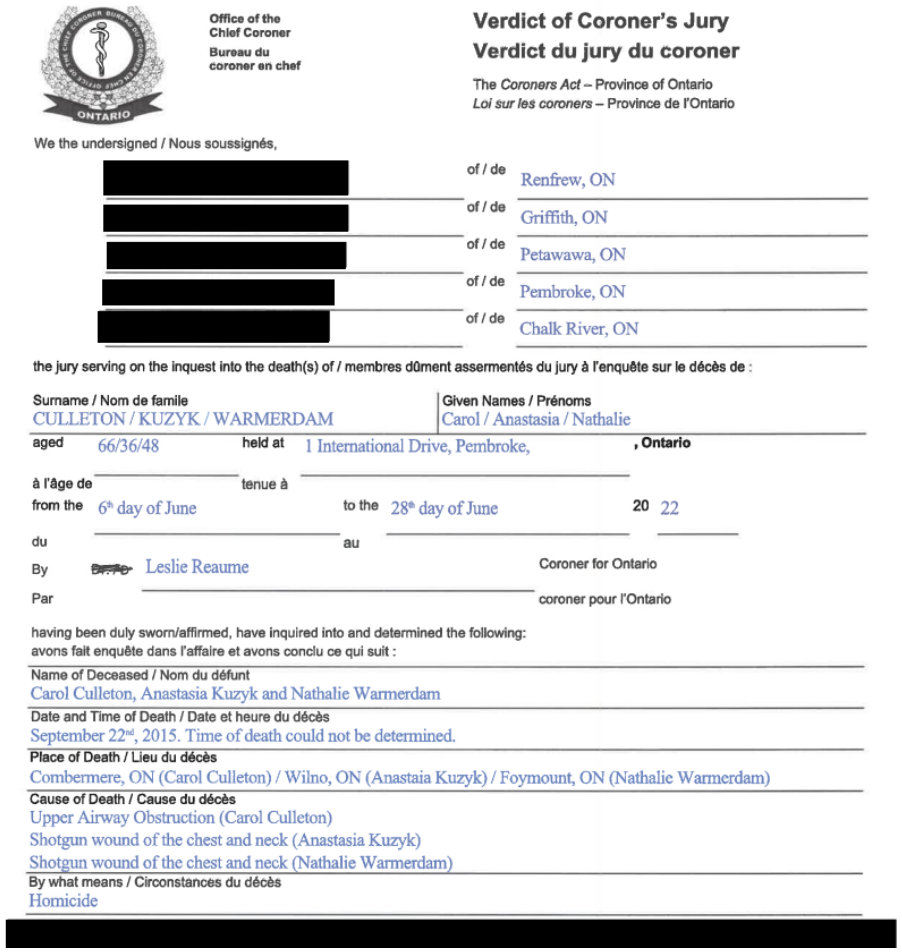
PAID LEAVE FOR DV & SV (GOVERNMENT BILL)

- Bill 148, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017

Second Reading	Standing Committee	Reported as Amended
• September 12-October 18, 2017	• Hearings October-November, 2017 • 100+ Submissions	• November 22, 2017 • 10 days leave for DV/SV, **including 5 days paid**

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IPV AS AN EPIDEMIC (2022 RENFREW COUNTY CORONER'S REPORT)



Office of the Chief Coroner
Bureau du coroner en chef

Verdict of Coroner's Jury
Verdict du jury du coroner

The *Coroners Act* – Province of Ontario
Loi sur les coroners – Province de l'Ontario

We the undersigned / Nous soussignés,

[redacted] of / de Renfrew, ON
[redacted] of / de Griffith, ON
[redacted] of / de Petawawa, ON
[redacted] of / de Pembroke, ON
[redacted] of / de Chalk River, ON

the jury serving on the inquest into the death(s) of / membres dûment assermentés du jury à l'enquête sur le décès de :

Surname / Nom de famile: CULLETON / KUZYK / WARMERDAM
Given Names / Prénoms: Carol / Anastasia / Nathalie

aged / à l'âge de: 66/36/48
held at / tenue à: 1 International Drive, Pembroke, , Ontario
from the / du: 6th day of June
to the / au: 28th day of June 20 22
By / Par: ~~Barrie~~ Leslie Reaume, Coroner for Ontario / coroner pour l'Ontario

having been duly sworn/affirmed, have inquired into and determined the following:
avons fait enquête dans l'affaire et avons conclu ce qui suit :

Name of Deceased / Nom du défunt
Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam

Date and Time of Death / Date et heure du décès
September 22nd, 2015. Time of death could not be determined.

Place of Death / Lieu du décès
Combermere, ON (Carol Culleton) / Wilno, ON (Anastaia Kuzyk) / Foymount, ON (Nathalie Warmerdam)

Cause of Death / Cause du décès
Upper Airway Obstruction (Carol Culleton)
Shotgun wound of the chest and neck (Anastasia Kuzyk)
Shotgun wound of the chest and neck (Nathalie Warmerdam)

By what means / Circonstances du décès
Homicide

[redacted]

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IPV AS AN EPIDEMIC (PMB 1)

- Bill 173, Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, 2024 (Wong-Tam, Andrew, Gretzky, Sattler)

First Reading	Second Reading
• March 7, 2024	• April 10, 2024 • Passed and referred to Standing Committee on Justice Policy

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STUDY ON IPV (COMMITTEE)

- Established April 17, 2024
  - Is IPV an epidemic?
- Hearings July-November 2024
  - 150 presentations

LEGISLATURE DISSOLVED JANUARY 28, 2025

- Government motion recognizing “endemic” nature of IPV, November 5, 2025
- Final Report December 9, 2025
  - Written by government member
  - IPV is **endemic**, not epidemic
  - NDP Dissenting Report

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IPV AS AN EPIDEMIC (PMB 2)

- Bill 55, Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, 2025 (Wong-Tam, Gretzky, Sattler)

First Reading	Second Reading
• June 5, 2025 • Includes Renfrew County Inquest Implementation Committee	

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ADVOCACY TOOLS

- Letters to Ministers/opposition critics
- In person meetings with MPPs/Assistants
- Petitions (electronic vs print)
- Form email campaigns
- Question Period
- PMBs and endorsements
- Committees (oral and written submissions)
- Cross-sector coalitions
- Media

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THANK YOU!

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