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For Immediate Release

Raising the Flag to End Gender-Based Violence across Ontario

Niagara Falls, ON, November 22, 2021 – November is Woman Abuse Prevention Month. Throughout the month, communities across Ontario have been taking part in activities to raise awareness of gender-based violence and the steps needed to end it, such as participating in OAITH's "Wrapped in Courage" campaign, which encourages Ontarians to wear a people scarf as a symbol of the courage it takes to seek support and safety from violence.

As part of this month-long awareness campaign, Women's Place has encouraged municipalities in South Niagara to proclaim November 25th as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This day is recognized across the world as the first day of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The following municipalities will also be raising a "Wrapped in Courage" flag to signal their commitment to ending gender-based violence in their community and to ensure that survivors know they are not alone:

Flag raisings on November 25:

9:00 a.m. – Civic Square, 60 E Main St., Welland (Mayor Campion and Women's Place Director of Development and Stewardship, Amanda Braet to attend)

9:30 a.m. - Fort Erie Town Hall, 1 Municipal Centre Dr (Mayor Redekop and Women's Place Community Engagement Manager, Jennifer McQuestion to attend)

1:00 p.m. – Niagara Falls City Hall, 4310 Queen St. (Mayor Diodati and Women's Place Executive Director, Jennifer Gauthier to attend)

2:00 p.m. – Port Colborne City Hall, 66 Charlotte St, Port Colborne (City Councillor TBC and Women's Place Director of Development and Stewardship, Amanda Braet to attend)

Flag raising on December 2:

9:00 a.m. – Town of Pelham Municipal Building, 20 Pelham Town Square (Mayor Junkin, CAO David Cribbs and Women's Place Director of Development and Stewardship, Amanda Braet to attend)

On November 25th, Niagara Falls will also be illuminated Orange from 10:00-10:15 p.m., a colour that is associated internationally with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Welland Bridge 13 will also be illuminated purple in honour of Woman Abuse Prevention Month that evening.

Gender-based violence is often an invisible issue, and many women and gender-diverse individuals may not be aware of the services that are available in their community or of the “red flags” that they or a loved one are experiencing abuse. Public education is critical for ending the cycle of abuse. That is why Women's Place is also proud to announce that, as the 16 Days of Activism begin, our new Manager of Prevention and Public Education, Samantha Forbes, is launching her work to raise awareness by offering educational programming to businesses, community groups and schools. [Her first public presentation will be hosted virtually](#) by the Niagara Falls Community Health Centre on November 30 at 1:30 p.m.

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