Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition

Richmond City Council
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC
V6Y 2C1

August 18, 2025

SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Richmond Mayor and Councillors,

Re: Support for Battered Women Support Services (BWSS) request

On behalf of the Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition (RPRC), I am writing to express support for the referral motion following the July 28, 2025, delegation by Battered Women's Support Services, which calls for a staff report on actions local governments can take to address and prevent gender-based violence.

On July 28th, Angela Marie MacDougall, Executive Director of Battered Women's Support Services spoke on the urgent need for coordinated municipal action on gender-based violence and shared the work underway in the province-wide initiative called *DesignedWithSurvivors* https://www.bwss.org/if-three-women-had-been-killed/

Ms. MacDougall urged City Council to implement a task force to provide awareness and education to Richmond residents of the resources available to them. Battered Women Support Services states, *"violence against women is not a private family issue. It is a community and public health issue affecting not only the abuser and his victim but everyone around them."*

Richmond women are not immune to intimate partner violence. All who experience it should be aware of resources they can access in confidence, such as Chimo's Nova House and Atira's Cadence housing, both safe spaces for women fleeing violence. However, as noted during the delegation, having services in place is not enough. We also need proactive education and outreach to help residents navigate these supports and help prevent women at risk of gender-based violence from becoming isolated or marginalized.

The RPRC fully supports the request of BWSS. Our coalition of 13 Richmond organizations provides vital services and programs to thousands of our city's most vulnerable residents including seniors, newcomers, lone parent families, people with disabilities, and people with health challenges, among others.

Should you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at info@richmondprc.org. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Ho, President

Cc RPRC Board
Angela Marie MacDougall, BWSS