


Shelby Cleveland
868 Steele St.
Port Colborne, ON L3K 4Z6


Subject: Urgent Request for Bylaw Regulation of Unsolicited Graphic Anti-Abortion Flyers

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Shelby Cleveland, and I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Port Colborne regarding a matter that deeply troubled my family and others in our community.

On a Saturday morning in October, my four-year-old daughter innocently brought the mail to me, only to be exposed to extremely graphic anti-abortion imagery contained in unsolicited flyers. The images were distressing and confusing for her, and as a parent, I was left grappling with the difficulty of explaining such explicit content to a child of her age. This incident has sparked serious concerns within our household and has prompted me to reach out to you as our representative.

Moreover, as someone who is aware of the prevalence of miscarriages, occurring in about 15-20% of pregnancies in Canada, I am deeply troubled by the potential distress these graphic images may cause to mothers who have experienced such a loss. Unwanted reminders of a traumatic event can exacerbate emotional pain and make it even more challenging for individuals to cope and heal.

I have learned that St. Catharines took a commendable step in addressing this issue by unanimously passing a bylaw in September to regulate the delivery of graphic anti-abortion materials. The bylaw in St. Catharines mandates that such images must be enclosed in an envelope bearing a warning of the contents and the name of the distributor. This measure ensures that residents are given the choice to avoid exposure to distressing content and provides a layer of protection for young children who may inadvertently come into contact with these materials.

Given the recent implementation of this bylaw in St. Catharines, it is disheartening to note that neighbouring cities in Niagara, including Port Colborne, are now being increasingly targeted with similar graphic material. This not only poses a threat to the well-being of our community members but also highlights the urgency for our city to take proactive measures to address this issue.

I kindly request your support in bringing forth a bylaw to regulate the unsolicited delivery of graphic anti-abortion materials in Port Colborne. By adopting a similar approach to St. Catharines, we can safeguard the emotional well-being of our residents and protect young children from exposure to explicit content. Additionally, such regulation would demonstrate

sensitivity to the diverse experiences of our community members, including those who have faced the challenges of miscarriage.

I believe that this regulation will contribute to creating a more considerate and respectful community environment. I appreciate your time and attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing about any actions taken to address this concern. Thank you for your dedication to our community's well-being.

Sincerely,

Shelby Cleveland