



Canadian Federation of University Women
Welland and District

To: Mayor Bill Steele and Port Colborne City Councillors

Re: **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**

October 4, 2022

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), Welland and District is writing to request that the City of Port Colborne join with other communities in the region, across Canada and around the world to support the United Nations '**UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls Orange Campaign**'.

The **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** begins on **November 25** (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) and ends on **December 10** (International Human Rights Day). The **16 Days Campaign** invites governments, citizen organizations and individuals to mark these days with actions that increase awareness and stimulate discussion of this important issue. The Campaign uses the colour ORANGE to symbolize our hope for a brighter future.

The campaign has been very successful, with cities across Canada - and around the world - lighting up key buildings in orange. In Canada, these have included Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, Vancouver and numerous smaller centres. In our own region, the City of Welland lights its bridge in orange while the City of Niagara Falls turns an orange spotlight on its Falls.

We request that the City of Port Colborne join in this well respected and effective regional, national and international effort by lighting the cupola of City Hall in orange for one or more days of the Campaign. The action would provide opportunity for the City to raise public awareness, affirm its stance against gender-based violence - an issue at the forefront of public consciousness - and show support for the organizations and resources that help to prevent it and assist its victims.

As part of our own efforts to mark the 16 Days of Activism, CFUW Welland and District will create a display of red dresses along the Welland Canal in Port Colborne. As with our display here in 2020, this action aims to draw attention to the many Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada and our need to “redress” this issue.

Please consider lighting the cupola of Port Colborne’s City Hall in orange as a symbol of your solidarity with both the United Nations UNiTE Campaign and regional efforts. Kindly let us know whether the City is planning any other activities for the 16 Days of Activism. We would be very happy to participate and to assist in any way possible.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Lessard

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Welland and District, and

Resident, City of Port Colborne

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