BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES

Safety Changes Everything

August 31, 2026

Jason Lum
Chilliwack, BC

Dear Jason Lum

Earlier this month, Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) wrote to you asking you to make intimate partner violence (IPV) a public safety priority in your election platform. We have not heard from you yet, so we're following up with a simple ask:

Will you publicly commit to naming intimate partner violence as a priority in your platform and, if elected, in your policies?

As a candidate, you have an opportunity to help change how municipalities respond to intimate partner violence, and to show voters now what kind of leadership you will bring to your community if elected.

BWSS has identified five concrete policy actions that can help municipal leaders across British Columbia turn this commitment into action:

1. Establishing a Municipal IPV Task Force

Bring together police, housing, healthcare, victim services, Indigenous organizations, justice partners, and community organizations to coordinate prevention and response.

2. Support Community-Based Services

Advocate for a 15% increase in emergency funding for local victim services, anti-violence programs, and transition houses.

3. Strengthening Local Data Collection

Improve local, disaggregated data on IPV to identify trends, service gaps, and opportunities for intervention.

4. Investing in Prevention Education

Support community-wide education on healthy relationships, consent, and violence prevention.

5. Establishing Independent Oversight

Appoint a municipal or regional IPV Lead to coordinate action and ensure accountability.

If you are ready to commit to meaningfully naming IPV in your election platform and, if elected, in your policies, please let us know by **completing** this short form**.**

We will immediately update your status on The Downplay Detector, our public tracker of where municipal candidates and leaders across BC stand on making IPV a public safety priority.

Those who make a commitment will be listed as **"No Downplay Detected."** We'll also be proud to share that commitment with our thousands of followers on our digital platforms and recognize you as a leader taking concrete action to help make your community one of the safest in BC for women.

We would also be happy to meet with you to discuss the commitments, answer questions, and explore how we can work together to prevent IPV in your community.

BWSS will be at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention from September 14–19 and will be hosting several opportunities to connect:

Wednesday, September 16, 5:00–7:00 p.m. — Provincial Convening Reception: Power, Leadership and Collective Action

Thursday, September 17, 10:00–11:30 a.m. — Intimate Partner Violence Press Conference

Thursday, September 17, 1:00–5:00 p.m. — National Implementation Roundtable: From Commitment to Capacity

All events take place at the Vancouver Convention Centre West. Space at each is limited.

If you are attending UBCM, we would be honoured to have you join us. Please contact campaigncoordinator@bwss.org for more information or to arrange a meeting.

Public safety starts at home. This is an opportunity to show your community that preventing intimate partner violence is part of your commitment to keeping people safe.

We hope we can count on yours.

Sincerely,



Angela Marie MacDougall,
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