



Wednesday, January 25, 2023

To: Mayor Martin Ritsma and members of City of Stratford Council (Jo-Dee Burbach, Bonnie Henderson, Taylor Briscoe, Cody Sebbens, Brad Beatty, Lesley Biehn, Mark Hunter, Haarjinder Nijjar, Geza Wordofa, Larry McCabe

From: Canadian Federation of University Women Stratford Club

Re: Bill 5, Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

Our local Stratford Club of the Canadian Federation of University Women urge you to join other Ontario municipalities in support of Bill 5, "Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act".

Our City has complied with having a workplace harassment policy and indeed has recently hired a manager of Diversity, Equity, and Indigenous Initiatives, Kevin Bonnell. Thank you.

However, where the legislation underscores the rights of all persons to be safe at work, municipally elected representatives are immune from this legislation. Because our municipally elected officials work in frequent and important partnerships, particularly in the not-for-profit sector and with other community entities, councillors should not be immune from this legislation. Bill 5 addresses this gap and may encourage women to run for political office.

We look forward to your consideration of this matter, and support for Bill 5.

Daniel Bateman
Advocacy co-chair,
CFUW Stratford

Bettianne Hedges,
President and Advocacy co-chair
CFUW Stratford