

NDP Caucus News

For Immediate Release

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O’Leary: Declaring Gender-Based Violence an Epidemic is an Important Step

The following is a statement from MHA Sheilagh O’Leary on the NL Government declaring gender-based violence an epidemic.

“Declaring gender-based violence as an epidemic today serves as an important first step in dealing with the issues of violence. I want to thank all of the groups that have been advocating for so long: Act NOW, CUPE, Unifor, We’re Here for You, and Georgina McGrath.

“We know this is a single step, but it is an important one. It will mean so much to survivors, families and advocates across the province to see government finally take action to make sure that all women, girls, and gender-diverse Newfoundlanders and Labradorians can live here safely.

“Gender-based violence has been on the rise in our province. This declaration means that government can allocate time and resources to prevent violence and to support survivors. It is time to move forward and act to end gender-based violence.

“We have all heard personal stories of those who have faced violence. This declaration will give people hope. There are so many people struggling and feeling like there is no escape. Shelters are full and turning people away, there’s a housing crisis, and there can be a long wait to receive support or help to escape the violence. But today they can know that government recognizes the problem and have committed to work to address it. The NDP Caucus will continue to push for change.”

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