



Statement from the Town of Stephenville on Harassment of Elected Officials and Staff

The following resolution was passed at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities AGM regarding the **Harassment of Elected Local Government Officials**: The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) calls on the federal government to work with provinces, territories, and local governments, through FCM, to identify and implement measures to protect elected local government officials, their family members, and staff—especially women, members of Black and racialized communities, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous people—from harassment, intimidation, and threats, thereby reinforcing a unified front to safeguard democracy.

The Town of Stephenville stands firmly with this call to action. We echo FCM's message and emphasize that harassment of any kind toward our elected officials and staff is unacceptable. These harmful actions do not just affect individuals—they erode the foundations of democracy and the sense of community we hold dear.

The Town of Stephenville firmly denounces any form of harassment directed toward each and every one of our elected officials and staff. Over the past several months, social media has been a significant driver of negative commentary, and this has had a profound impact not only on our workplace but also on the personal lives of those who serve this community. This behavior constitutes a form of bullying and is inappropriate. We wish to make it known to the public that the Town of Stephenville has a positive duty to maintain a safe and harassment-free workplace, cannot and will not support or tolerate this type of treatment of its staff.

Each and every one of our staff members are selfless, hard-working individuals who dedicate themselves to the well-being of our town. Many of these employees have devoted their entire careers to serving the community, and they take immense pride in their work. They work with the best interests of Stephenville in mind, often going above and beyond to ensure that our town thrives. But beyond their roles, our employees are people—individuals with families, feelings, and personal lives. They deserve to enjoy fulfilling lives outside of work, surrounded by respect and positivity.

It is disheartening to see that kindness and empathy are becoming scarce in our community. We must remember that every member of our town, including those who serve it, deserves respect and compassion. Let us not forget the true meaning of community and the importance of treating one another with dignity and understanding.

We call on every member of our community to take a stand against negativity and actively support the Town of Stephenville in putting an end to this harmful behavior. Let us come together, not just to reject hurtful actions and comments, but to embrace kindness, empathy, and collaboration. By working together, we can create a stronger, more supportive environment where everyone's efforts are respected, and the wellbeing of our town is prioritized.

We have so much to look forward to in Stephenville's future, and now more than ever, we will need the support of the entire community to make these great things happen. There has never been a more important time to come together, to unite behind our shared goals, and to foster a culture of respect and cooperation. By joining forces, we can achieve far more positive and meaningful results, ensuring that the true spirit of our town thrives. Let's lift each other up and work together to build the bright future we all want to see for Stephenville.