

**POLICY STATEMENTS SUBMISSION for 2019**

**Presented to**

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DOUGLAS FORD**

**Premier of Ontario**

By



**THE BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL  
WOMEN OF ONTARIO**

**[bpwontario.com](http://bpwontario.com)**

**Working towards improving economic, political, social, and  
employment conditions for Women in Ontario**

***“Embracing Women’s Empowerment”***

Member of:

The Canadian and International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW Canada)

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International)

August 2019



## **INTRODUCTION**

The Business and Professional Women of Ontario (BPW Ontario) is the coordinating organization for the active membership of dedicated working women in clubs across the province.

BPW Ontario membership represents a diverse group of women, in both the public and private sectors of business, industry, and the professions. Our members hold positions as business entrepreneurs, CEO's, managers and employees across a full range of occupational sectors.

Individual clubs within the provincial organization are members of the Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW Canada) founded in 1930, and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW) has members in over 95 countries around the world and maintains Consultative Status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Since 1910 BPW Ontario has worked to promote the interests of working women. We Have made submissions to government, addressing issues of equal pay and benefits, employment opportunities, employment equity, part time work, child care, maternity leave, pension reform, health issues, and other areas of concern to women. BPW Ontario promotes equality as a basic human right, ensuring the full participation of women who comprise 52% of the population. It is believed through the realization of their full potential, Ontario's working women will continue to drive the thriving business and economic climate of today and ensure prosperity for generations to come.

Since 2016, BPW Ontario, working in collaboration with BPW International, BPW Canada and the United Nations Economic and Social Council to "*Empower Women to Realize Sustainable Development Goals*. As part of this objective, BPW Ontario and other organizations from across the province, launched #ProjectONroute to help create awareness of human sex trafficking of minor aged victims. Our hope that by raising awareness we directly help trafficked individuals by Canadians reporting potential criminal activity. #ProjectONroute has morphed into #ProjectMapleLeaf and has been adopted by BPW Canada on a national basis.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

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Business and Professional Women of Ontario

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## **Elder Abuse and Violence in Long-Term Care Facilities**

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**Rationale:** In 2010 Statistics Canada reported 4.8 million seniors in Canada of which 2.7 million, or 56% were women. It is projected that by 2031, in Canada, 9.6 million seniors and 53% of these, or 5.1 million seniors, will be women. In 2031, 1.6 million of those women will be over 80 years of age and will comprise most of the population in long term care facilities.

In 2005, the Coroner's Jury Verdict and Recommendations from the Inquest into the Deaths of Ezzeldine El Roubi and Pedro Lopez made 85 recommendations which included ensuring long-term care facilities receiving individuals prone to or exhibiting aggressive behavior be adequately staffed with appropriately trained regulated health care professionals who have expertise with those types of behaviours. Between 2011 and 2016, assaults on and between residents in Ontario long term care facilities have more than doubled. The Ontario Health Coalition, January 21, 2019 Situation Critical Report noted the needs of long-term care facilities continue to be more staff, better training, and more time spent directly with residents who have aggressive and/or violent behaviours.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Business and Professional Women of Ontario urges the Government of Ontario, specifically the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, to require that long-term care facilities be resourced and funded with an adequate number of professionally trained staff to deal with residents' increasing aggressive behaviours;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Business and Professional Women of Ontario urges the Government of Ontario, specifically the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to direct the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINS) / Ontario Health to fund long-term care facilities to have in-house Behavioural Support Ontario (BSO) teams to work with the daily hands-on direct nursing staff and personal support workers to provide appropriate resident care and protection of both residents and staff from harm;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Business and Professional Women of Ontario urges the Government of Ontario, specifically the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, to continue to act on the recommendations of the Coroner's Jury Verdict and Recommendations from the Inquest into the Deaths of Ezzeldine El Roubi and Pedro Lopez and The Ontario Health Coalition, 2019 Situation Critical Report, in order that future incidents of assault can be reduced.

## **Providing Education to Youth, Parents and Caregivers of Students about Human Trafficking**

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**Rationale:** The cost of human trafficking to the province includes funding for: Ontario Provincial Police specialized services, personnel and equipment; agencies that locate and assist human trafficking victims, provide counselling agencies for addictions and the physical and mental issues; and agencies that can provide housing, employment opportunities, legal, peer and other supports for victims and if necessary, their families (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, 2018). Ontario's Strategy to End Human Trafficking states:

"Most people who are trafficked for sex are women and girls...The age of recruitment is as low as 12 or 13...Indigenous women and girls are especially likely to be trafficked" (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, 2018a, para. 1).

BPW Ontario believes one of the most effective forms of prevention is education and the best way to protect young people in that age group from the realities of human trafficking is through the school system.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Business and Professional Women of Ontario urges the Government of Ontario, specifically the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, the Attorney General, the Minister of Education, and the Minister of Indigenous Affairs to work together to set up education sessions, as part of the school curriculum, that will focus on the issue of human trafficking and that these sessions would start in primary school Grade 6 level and continue throughout secondary school and be mandated in all registered schools in the province;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Business and Professional Women of Ontario urges the Government of Ontario, specifically the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, the Attorney General, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Indigenous Affairs, the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade, and the Minister of Labour to utilize materials appropriate for students in grades 5 /6 and higher and already developed by agencies working as partners to combat human trafficking, and currently funded by the provincial government;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Business and Professional Women of Ontario urges the Government of Ontario, specifically the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, the Attorney General, the Minister of Education, and the Minister of Indigenous Affairs to include parents and caregivers of students in the education sessions so that whole families and communities will be further educated and involved in the prevention and spread of human trafficking;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Business and Professional Women of Ontario urges the Government of Ontario to urge the Government of Canada, specifically the Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship to provide funding to indigenous schools so they can receive the same education/training on Human Trafficking;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Business and Professional Women of Ontario urges the Minister of Education to provide funding through Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants to the Parent Involvement Committees (PIC) to provide education presentations / sessions for parents and caregivers.

## **Providing Housing to Under 18 Years of Age Victims of Human Trafficking**

**Rationale:** The province of Ontario announced in November 2018 that it was providing \$1.5 million in further funding to be added to the previous government's announcement in November 2017 of up to three years of \$18.6 million in funding through 44 agencies for projects to prevent human trafficking and to support victims (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, 2018b). In addition, Lisa MacLeod, the former Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, co-chaired a task force on sex trafficking with the federal Status of Women Minister, Maryam Monsef to address the issue of human trafficking in the Criminal Code with a report expected very late in 2019 (Paling, 2018).

BPW Ontario is encouraged to see the initiatives already being taken and continued by the provincial government. Because the majority of human trafficking victims are under the age of 18, more must be done to support these victims specifically.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Business and Professional Women of Ontario urges the Government of Ontario, specifically the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, the Attorney General, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Minister of Indigenous Affairs to provide stable and reoccurring funding to support the housing of female sexual human trafficking victims under the age of 18 to the agencies providing trafficking specific residential support and long-term housing and treatment to victims of human trafficking under the age of 18;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Business and Professional Women of Ontario urges the Government of Ontario, specifically the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, the Attorney General, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Minister of Indigenous Affairs to obtain this funding from the forfeiture of proceeds and instruments of unlawful activity, as was done for the funding announced in November 2018.



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#### **Providing Housing to Under 18 Years of Age Victims of Human Trafficking**

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