April 29th, 2008.

Hello Members of Council:

During our spring education seminar at the Port Elgin CAW (Canadian Auto Workers Union) Training Center, we were made aware of the workplace (Sears) Murder of Theresa Vince in June of 1996 and the workplace (Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital) murder of Nurse Lori Dupont in November 2005.

Despite two separate recommendations made by the Jury Members of those Coroner Inquests, several attempts to introduce private members bills in the last couple years to make legislation that would be able to address harassment and workplace violence at its beginning rather than leave it continue on until a murder takes place, have been unsuccessful.

We are asking that all municipalities in the Province of Ontario support our attached motion to legislate changes governing harassment and violence in the workplace by returning us a signed copy of support of this motion. We would further ask that your Council forward that same letter of support to the MPPs who cover your Provincial Riding.

With your help we will be able to make a safe and happy workplace for all.

Thank You.

Don Grant, Local 222/CAW
Dwight Harper, Local 598/CAW
Texas MacDonald, Local 598/CAW

Please Fax to 705-673-1183
Attention: Workplace Violence Resolution
Or by mail to:
19 Regent Street South,
Sudbury, Ontario
P3C-4B7
WHEREAS sexual harassment is a significant and wide-spread occupational health and safety hazard for women in the workplace, and the current workplace legislation has proven to be ineffective in preventing gendered workplace violence and murder;

AND WHEREAS legislation to provide workplace protection from sexual harassment and domestic violence has been brought forward FIVE times since 2001, including Private Members Bills in 2001 (Bill 76), 2003 (Bill 55), 2004 (Bill 126) and 2005 (Bills 35 and 45);

AND WHEREAS including sexual harassment in OHSA was one of the recommendations of the inquests into the deaths of both Theresa Vince and Lori Dupont; specifically in the case of Lori Dupont, recommendation #10 from the verdict of the Coroner’s Jury urges the Ontario Ministry of Labour to undertake a “review of OHSA to examine the feasibility of including domestic violence (from someone in the workplace), abuse and harassment as factors warranting investigation and appropriate action by the Ministry of Labour....”

WE, the members of the CAW Union request that each municipality in the Province of Ontario support this motion to:

Amend the Ontario Health and Safety Act to include a personal safety clause that would offer protections from emotional or psychological harm as well as from physical harm in the workplace.

Please forward back to us a copy of your motion of support as well as copy to the MPPs who are in your riding. Thank you for your help with our concern to make safe workplaces in the province for all.