From: electHER Now Community Group < electhernow@gmail.com >

**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 8:00 AM

**To:** electHER Now Community Group <<u>electhernow@gmail.com</u>>

**Subject:** electHER Now Seeks Strengthening of Municipal Anti-Harrassment Penalties - Please Share!

Dear Municipal CAOs & Clerks,

The attached letter was sent to local MPPs today, requesting that the Municipal Act be amended to protect not just women, but ALL elected to office and those who work with elected officials, when individuals have violated workplace violence or harassment policies.

Please share this letter with those on your council, at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

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Laura Wood, Co-Founder
On behalf of the electHER Now Planning Team





March 8, 2024

Mr. Rick Byers, MPP Bruce Grey Owen Sound 345 8<sup>th</sup> Street E, Suite 104 Owen Sound, ON N4K 1L3 Ms. Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce 807 Queen St., Unit 3, PO Box 834 Kincardine, ON N2Z 2Y2 Mr. Brian Saunderson, MPP Simcoe-Grey 180 Parsons Road, Suite 28 Alliston, ON L9R 1E8

Dear Mr. Byers, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Saunderson,

## Re: Please Strengthen Current Municipal Anti-Harassment Penalties NOW

On behalf of electHER Now, a non-partisan organization working toward gender parity in the political landscape, we are requesting that the Municipal Act be amended to protect not just women, but all elected to municipal office and those who work with elected officials when individuals have violated workplace violence or harassment policies.

Since 2021 when the Ontario Government announced they had begun the process of gathering input about the issue there has been a rising trend in the reporting and the degree of abuse.

At electHER Now, we are working hard to encourage more women to run for office and support them in their municipal political journey. We would welcome the opportunity to have a conversation with you to discuss strategies and options to strengthen the Municipal Act and stop Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders.

Please connect with us at <u>electhernowadvocate@gmail.com</u> to arrange a meeting date and time.

Thank you,

## Carol Merton

Co-Founder, electHER Now 2022-2026 Councillor Municipality of Owen Sound

## Laura Wood

Co-Founder, electHER Now Community Volunteer

## **Jennifer Shaw**

Advisory Council, electHER Now 2022-2026 Deputy Mayor Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

c.c. All 17 municipalities in Grey and Wardens of Bruce and Wardens Grey County and Bruce County

Website: electhernow.ca Email: electhernowadvocate@gmail.com