

THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES SUPPORTING MATERIAL FOR MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND POLICY INITIATIVES
BROUGHT FORWARD DURING THE 2022-2023 TERM. IT IS SHARED TO SUPPORT TRANSPARENCY,
ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INFORMED PUBLIC DIALOGUE.

Community Wellbeing, Safety and Social Advocacy

Support for Declaring Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic

Status: Motion brought forward and adopted by council

What was brought forward

In 2023, I brought forward a motion requesting that the Municipality of Casselman formally support the declaration of intimate partner violence as an epidemic, aligning with a resolution previously adopted by the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward.

The motion called on council to acknowledge the correspondence received, endorse the declaration, and formally communicate Casselman's support to key decision-makers, including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Premier of Ontario, and relevant provincial and federal representatives.

Why it mattered for Casselman

Intimate partner violence is a serious and pervasive issue that affects community safety, health, and wellbeing, including in smaller municipalities where it is often less visible. I believed it was essential for municipal leadership to clearly acknowledge the reality of intimate partner violence and to use its voice to advocate for stronger recognition, coordinated responses, and systemic action.

While service delivery often falls under other jurisdictions, municipalities play a critical role in awareness, advocacy, and signaling that violence in any form is unacceptable. Declaring intimate partner violence an epidemic was a way to affirm community values, support survivors, and contribute to broader efforts aimed at prevention and protection.

Outcome

Council voted in favour of the motion, formally endorsing the declaration and authorizing the transmission of Casselman's support to provincial and federal stakeholders. This decision positioned Casselman alongside other municipalities advocating for stronger action and accountability on this issue.

What this demonstrates about my leadership

This entry reflects a leadership approach grounded in community safety, social responsibility, and advocacy beyond municipal boundaries. It demonstrates my commitment to addressing difficult social realities, supporting collective action, and ensuring Casselman's voice contributes to broader efforts to protect residents and promote wellbeing.

Wear Red Canada Day – Women’s Heart Health Awareness

Status: Motion passed

What was brought forward

In 2023, I brought forward a motion supporting Casselman’s formal recognition of February 13 as Wear Red Canada Day, aligning the municipality with the national campaign led by the Canadian Women’s Heart Health Centre. The motion was informed by conversations with residents and community partners who emphasized the importance of raising awareness about women’s heart health and addressing long-standing gaps in health education, prevention, and visibility.

Why it mattered for Casselman

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death for women in Canada, yet women’s heart health has historically been under-recognized and under-researched. I believed that municipal leadership has a role to play in supporting public health awareness, particularly when it comes to prevention and education.

Recognizing Wear Red Canada Day allowed Casselman to demonstrate support for equitable access to health information, align with trusted regional and national health partners, and publicly acknowledge an issue that affects residents across age groups and demographics.

Outcome

Council voted in favour of the motion, formally recognizing February 13 as Wear Red Canada Day in Casselman. This decision enabled the municipality to participate in a national awareness initiative and visibly support community health promotion efforts.

What this demonstrates about my leadership

This entry reflects a leadership approach that values proactive health promotion, partnership with external organizations, and the use of municipal tools to amplify issues that matter to residents. It demonstrates my commitment to supporting community wellbeing through informed, collaborative, and inclusive action.

Support Resolution for Bill 21 – Fixing Long-Term Care Act Amendment

Status: Motion brought forward and adopted by Council

What was brought forward

In October 2023, I brought forward a motion requesting that the Municipality of Casselman formally support Bill 21, an amendment to Ontario's Fixing Long-Term Care Act. The proposed legislation aimed to strengthen residents' rights by ensuring that spouses are not separated when entering long-term care and are able to continue living together while receiving care.

The motion called on Council to endorse the resolution and formally communicate Casselman's support to provincial decision-makers as part of a broader advocacy effort.

Why it mattered for Casselman

Seniors and their families in Casselman, like those across Ontario, are directly affected by long-term care policies. Separation of spouses during a time of vulnerability can have profound emotional and psychological impacts, compounding the challenges already associated with aging, illness, and transitions in care.

Although long-term care falls under provincial jurisdiction, I believed it was important for the municipality to use its voice to advocate for compassionate, human-centred policies that reflect the values and lived realities of our residents.

Outcome

Council voted in favor of the motion, formally endorsing Casselman's support for Bill 21 and adding the municipality's voice to a province-wide call for more humane long-term care standards.

What this demonstrates about my leadership

This entry reflects a leadership approach grounded in dignity, empathy, and advocacy. It demonstrates my commitment to ensuring municipal government plays an active role in influencing higher levels of decision-making when provincial policies directly affect the wellbeing of local residents. It also highlights the importance of using municipal resolutions as a tool to amplify community values and advocate for meaningful systemic change.

211 Services and Community-Based Support Task Force

Status: Motion defeated

What was brought forward

In 2023, I brought forward a resolution proposing the creation of a local task force focused on promoting 211 services and strengthening coordination between municipal leadership and community-based social service providers.

The proposal was inspired by local vigils held in Casselman to raise awareness about domestic violence and the need for accessible support systems. I worked with community advocates involved in these initiatives to translate that awareness into concrete municipal action.

The task force was intended to bring together local service providers, community organizations, and municipal representatives to improve awareness of existing supports, reduce service gaps, and ensure residents knew where to turn in moments of crisis.

Why it mattered for Casselman

211 is a critical access point for residents seeking help related to housing, food security, mental health, domestic violence, and crisis support. In smaller communities, these needs are often underestimated or assumed to be addressed informally.

I believed Casselman had an opportunity to lead by recognizing that social challenges exist even when they are not always visible, and that municipal leadership has a role in connecting people to the supports that already exist rather than assuming the problem does not exist.

This initiative was about prevention, dignity, and coordination, not creating new bureaucracy.

Outcome

Council voted against the resolution and chose not to move forward with the task force. The motion was not opened for broader collaboration with local service providers, resulting in a missed opportunity to strengthen partnerships and proactively support residents facing crisis situations.

What this demonstrates about my leadership

This entry reflects a leadership approach that prioritizes community well-being, early intervention, and listening to frontline advocates. It demonstrates a willingness to bring forward initiatives that address difficult realities and to advocate for systems that support residents before crises escalate, even when those efforts are met with resistance.

Homelessness Recognition and Housing Advocacy

Status: Motion defeated; subsequent advocacy and regional action initiated

What was brought forward

In 2023, I brought forward a resolution acknowledging the presence of homelessness and housing insecurity within Casselman and calling for greater awareness, coordination, and support for affected residents.

This motion was informed by direct, lived realities I was encountering as Mayor, including residents and youth experiencing housing instability that was not visible in traditional municipal data. I raised the issue openly at the council table to prompt discussion and collective responsibility.

Why it mattered for Casselman

At the time, homelessness was often dismissed as an issue that did not exist locally. I believed this reflected a gap between perception and reality, and highlighted how housing insecurity can remain hidden in smaller communities through couch surfing, informal arrangements, and temporary displacement.

Recognizing homelessness is a necessary first step to addressing it. Without acknowledgment, municipalities cannot plan, partner, or advocate effectively. For Casselman, this was about ensuring that vulnerable residents were not overlooked simply because their circumstances were less visible.

Outcome

Council voted against the resolution, citing the belief that homelessness was not an issue in Casselman. While the motion did not pass, it became a pivotal moment in my mandate. It underscored the lack of local data and awareness around housing insecurity and reinforced the need for stronger regional collaboration.

Following this, I joined the regional Housing and Homelessness Committee and began actively advocating for solutions, including partnerships with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, to ensure Casselman would be included in future housing initiatives and planning efforts.

What this demonstrates about my leadership

This entry reflects a leadership approach rooted in listening to lived experience, raising uncomfortable truths, and responding with action rather than silence. Even when a motion was defeated, it prompted deeper engagement, learning, and sustained advocacy to ensure Casselman was not left behind in regional housing solutions.

Volunteer Recognition and Democratic Participation

Status: Initial motions defeated; policy later implemented

What was brought forward

Throughout 2023, I brought forward multiple motions and proposals aimed at strengthening how the municipality recognizes volunteers and supports civic participation. These initiatives were inspired by extensive door-to-door conversations during my campaign, where residents repeatedly shared that they contributed to their community but felt unseen, underappreciated, and disconnected from municipal decision-making.

My proposals focused on creating clearer, more consistent mechanisms to recognize volunteer contributions and to signal that civic participation is valued and encouraged within Casselman.

Why it mattered for Casselman

Volunteers are the foundation of community life in Casselman. From local events and service organizations to informal acts of care, residents regularly give their time and energy to support one another.

I believed that failing to recognize this contribution risks weakening community engagement and discouraging participation. A municipality that values democracy must actively acknowledge and support the people who make community life possible, not take them for granted.

Strengthening volunteer recognition was also about rebuilding trust and countering civic apathy by showing residents that their involvement matters.

Outcome

While motions related to volunteer recognition were not approved at the time, the issues they raised prompted further administrative work. Later in 2023, the municipality adopted a Community Recognition Policy, establishing a formal framework to acknowledge residents for volunteerism, leadership, and community contribution.

This outcome ensured that recognition efforts moved from ad hoc gestures to a consistent, transparent process grounded in fairness and inclusivity.

What this demonstrates about my leadership

This entry reflects a leadership approach centered on respect for community contributions, democratic participation, and persistence. Even when initial proposals were not supported, I continued advocating for the underlying principle that residents who give back to their community deserve meaningful recognition.

It demonstrates a commitment to listening to residents, translating their concerns into policy discussions, and remaining focused on long-term cultural change within municipal governance.

