

MOTION

5. We Can Coalition

MOVER: Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

SECONDER: Councillor George Chow

WHEREAS:

1. Violence against women persists as both a pervasive violation of human rights and a significant impediment to achieving gender equality on a global and local level;
2. Gender inequality remains one of the root causes of violence against women while violence against women serves as both an acute manifestation of gender inequality and a means of perpetuating it;
3. Vancouver is a city that believes in dignity, respect, and gender equality and has established the first City of Vancouver Women's Advisory Committee;
4. Recent figures from Statistics Canada indicate that women are 8 times more likely than men to experience violence in relationships (Source: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, Statistics Canada, 2006);
5. Recent statistics show that violence against women increase by one third during times of economic downturn;
6. 'We Can End All Violence against Women', or 'We Can', is a multi-year, international campaign, which seeks to challenge and change deeply entrenched societal attitudes and practices that support violence against women through a Coalition of over 50 organizations and 500 individuals;
7. 'We Can' is a partner in the international '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence' campaign that will be taking place from November 25- December 10, 2009 to raise awareness and dialogue around violence against women;
8. The '16 Days' Campaign has seen tens of thousands of activists from every region of the world take part in a united movement for women's rights since its beginning in 1991, providing an opportunity to work together in solidarity and draw upon this period of heightened international attention to gain support for local efforts; and
9. The COV Women's Advisory Committee requests that Vancouver City Council support the campaign against violence against women by supporting this campaign.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the City of Vancouver unanimously agree to endorse the We Can Coalition and its '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence' Campaign.

Referred