

PROCLAMATION

APRIL, 2023

"Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)"

WHEREAS, an estimated 90% of sexual assaults are not reported to police (Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, 2013.); 30% of all women over 15 years of age report having experienced sexual assault (Canadian Women's Foundation, 2021); and Sexual Assault is the only violent crime in Canada that is not decreasing with time (Statistics Canada, 2014); and


WHEREAS, newly formed resources are now available to the residents of the Village of Pemberton in terms of health-care and community-based victim services; and that the Howe Sound Women's Centre Society (Est. 1981) has provided safe housing to families escaping violence in the Village of Pemberton since 2006; and the Howe Sound Women's Centre has been an important collaborator in advocating for locally-based and on-demand continuum of care for sexual assault survivors, including men and people who are gender-non-conforming); and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable to presume local rates of sexual assault are in keeping with nationally measured trends, and that individuals who are identified to be at increased risk to be sexually assaulted--namely newcomers to Canada, Indigenous people, young adults and youth, LBGTQ2SA+ identified people, as well as people with visible disabilities--are less likely to disclose sexual assault due to associated social stigmatization; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness requires robust cross-sectoral collaboration to achieve measurable amelioration of sexual violence in both our community and in the in the Sea to Sky region as a whole; and

WHEREAS, it is noted April has been broadly declared Sexual Assault Awareness Month in both small and large jurisdictions across North America;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike Richman, Mayor of the Village of Pemberton, do hereby proclaim April, 2023 "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in the Village of Pemberton.



Mike Richman
Mayor