

1. I hope appropriate legislative changes are introduced sooner than later. Dealing with domestic abuse, domestic violence and/or coercive control is a crisis in this country.
2. It may be too late this time around, in the future though if there is any opportunity for me to share my journey (domestic abuse and coercive control) with the House of Commons and/or any other organization, I would appreciate the same. My case is well documented and I will be pleased to share and/or speak with evidence as maybe required.
3. I can or would like to speak to forms of domestic abuse, domestic violence, coercive control, emotional damage to a child and dealing with various stakeholders - Health Care Providers, Police, Office of the Children's Lawyer (OCL), CAS, Lawyers and the excruciating challenges in dealing with Family Court and the archaic Family Law.
4. Organizations designed to protect the vulnerable are the very organizations that attack domestic abuse survivors and children. All one hears about is the perpetrator's RIGHTS, not a single organization is willing to speak to RESPONSIBILITY
  - Organizations, at least ones involved in my case, appear to have no tools and/or knowledge to recognize red flags and and/or assess potential abuse. Without expensive litigation (which itself is an anomaly,) there is no safe place for the victims and/or survivors to address their concerns and/or seek any possible relief
  - If there is a child or children involved, they are the one of the best tools available to an abusive parent to use against a domestic abuse victim or survivor parent. Courts further perpetuate this behavior in their reluctance to dismiss parental claims, ask questions and/or aggressively deal with an abuser's actions
    - a. In court, my ex-husband could not stop calling out to God and that the case be put on trial (knowing that I did not have the financial means) on account of not having enough parenting time with our daughter. Outside of court, if I did not ask for Child Support and paid him from Equalization of the Net Family Property (possibly nothing was due to him on account of my debt,) over and above the money he had already taken, he wanted no more than a few hours a week of parenting time with our daughter. During the course of the litigation, he missed significant parenting time and it's now 9 months since he has seen or communicated with our daughter
    - b. Despite a court order for supervised parenting time, my ex-husband presented at our daughter's daycare, when stopped by the staff from visiting with our daughter, he called the police. It took 4 police officers over

2 hours to remove him from the day care. During peak pick up time for children, he essentially shut down the day care - parents had to be redirected to another entry/exit point to pick up their children. This is despite knowing that the daycare could have easily withdrawn our daughter's place, that I needed the day care for our daughter when I was at work and I was our daughter's sole provider. The OCL assessor with awareness of the situation simply disregarded his behavior

- c. In court, my ex-husband was obsessive about always being kept in the know of my address and having access to our daughter's health records. Subsequently, I found out he was criminally charged for falsifying insurance receipts on behalf of our daughter for conditions she did not have. Receipts were submitted to claim reimbursement from his extended health insurance even for days when he did not have parenting time with her
  - d. While insisting matters go to trial, my ex-husband would not consent to the "Voice of the Child" involvement. I can only surmise that it was to not expose how he was treating our daughter. When I brought a motion, did he come to the table and settle parental claims after 7 years of unnecessary litigation.
5. Given how my ex-husband continues to or was able to manipulate and/or find allies in every aspect of the Canadian society, including people in positions of authority, people with a higher standard of care and obligations, its difficult to trust anyone.
  6. My ex-husband possibly has and/or continues to deceive various government agencies including but not limited to Canadian Citizenship & Immigration (CIC,) Legal Aid Ontario, Ontario Works, Canada Revenue Agency. None of these agencies choose to investigate and/or care about how their lack of due diligence is impacting my daughter and I
    - In looking back, it appears much of ex-husband's education in deceiving almost every aspect of Canadian society including marriage came possibly from our Immigration Lawyer, who my ex-husband insisted we use for his sponsorship to Canada. This immigration lawyer at that time was also a City Prosecutor, given his position, I thought he could be trusted, but so was not the case
    - During the course of the marriage, my ex-husband would not allow me to see a family physician of my choice, I could not take our daughter to a pediatrician. We had to visit a family physician of his choice. My ex-husband had to sit in all my

appointments, I was to not take our daughter alone to even visit the physician of his choice. Following separation, when I asked for our daughter's medical records, a number of concerns that I raised with the physician in my ex-husband's presence regarding his behaviour with our infant daughter were not noted in her medical records.

7. I came to Canada in 2001 with the hope of building a future in this country. It was hard to find an appropriate job, I persevered and found a job that I have held onto for 20 years. I built credit and I bought a house. I worked through 4 years of a disastrous marriage and 7 years of unnecessary litigation (in my opinion), led by my ex-husband and his Legal Aid lawyer. My daughter and I lost our house. Despite working full time, my daughter and I are on the verge of homelessness. But for my 10-year-old daughter, I have no family and/or extended support system in Canada.
8. In damaging a parent and a child and then relegating them to a homeless shelter is what the Canadian Justice System defines as - "Best Interest of the Child." In getting to better understand Canada, it's been disappointing to know how prevalent systematic abuse is in this country.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Funding for preventative age-appropriate education for girls and women via Media, NGO's and govt agencies on Self Confidence, Self Worth, Domestic Abuse, Domestic Violence, Manipulation, Coercive Control and identifying behaviors related to Narcissism.
2. Mandatory and ongoing training on Domestic Abuse, Domestic Violence, Coercive Control, Manipulation and Narcissism for Judges, Lawyers, Arbitrators, Mediators, Police, Social Workers, Therapists, Family Physicians and any other front-line professionals engaged with the system.
3. Support Bill C-233 or "**Keira's Law**."
4. No Judge without experience in Family Law and/or without Extensive Training in Family Law should be allowed to preside over Family Law Cases.
5. Criminalize Domestic Abuse, Domestic Violence, Coercive Control and any form of Post Separation Abuse.
6. Development of tools and assessments to gauge red flags and to not allow the perpetrators to further manipulate and abuse both the victim/survivor and the legal system.

7. Allow recording of conversations with front line professionals to avoid reports being manipulated.
8. Adequate Legal Funding for Victims and Survivors of Domestic Abuse regardless of their ability to pay. If one may survive domestic abuse, one may not survive the legal bills. Despite my debts, caused by my ex-husband and that I was our daughter's sole provider (and continue to be), I was unable to receive any financial assistance for legal fees, owing to my income being marginally higher than the legal aid limits.
9. In case of Domestic Abuse - Perpetrators be removed from the Residence. Burden currently falls on victims or survivors to seek shelter along with their children.

#### 10. Court Reform

- Nimble Court Processes - Currently the only individuals I see benefitting from Family Courts are the Lawyers. Along with the bureaucracy of the court processes, lawyers' fees and their ambitions are contradictory to their obligations to act in the best interest of their client
- Early Intervention to identify and track Domestic Abuse Cases
- Family Courts appear to be designed for perpetuating abuse and costly litigation for life. There are no repercussions for not following court orders, failing to pay cost rewards and not providing timely financial disclosures. In the name of parental claims (parenting time and decision making,) errant behavior seems to be rewarded
  - a. Financial Disclosure - In my case, my ex-husband did not provide proper financial disclosure despite 12 Judges speaking to him and/or ordering him to provide disclosures over a period of 7 years. Ultimately, I settled my case without Financial Disclosures. Our daughter has minimal to no child support and I could not file for costs
  - b. Court Orders & Court Costs - My ex-husband followed no court orders and did not pay cost rewards
- From the initiation of the court process and for the life of child support, Canada Revenue Agency should be mandated to release all Tax Documents including Notice of Assessments, Schedules and Supporting Documents (Attachments/Receipts) to both parties

- At the end of the court proceeding, it should be mandated to file court costs and Family Responsibility Office (in case of Ontario) or similar should collect all court costs, not just costs related to support. If a perpetrator has the right to litigate, the perpetrator also has the responsibility to pay court costs and not dissolve them in bankruptcy
- If an individual has criminal charges, both criminal charges and family court proceedings should be automatically integrated without having to deal with motions for exchanging any information
- Standardization of Court Processes - Just across the GTA, court processes vary. E.g., a lawyer from Toronto may not be fully familiar with the court processes in Brampton.