



Dear members of Victoria City Council,

The Collective Wine Bar (The Collective) is pleased to provide a letter of support for the development of specialized training programs for sexualized violence awareness and prevention for the Victoria hospitality industry.

Sexualized violence is a prominent societal issue and recent disclosures in the Victoria Hospitality industry have continued to highlight the urgent need for all communities to take steps to dismantle rape culture. To that end, The Collective is fully supportive of the creation of a dedicated, hospitality-focused, training program on sexualized violence awareness and prevention for staff, management, and owners of Victoria hospitality businesses.

The Collective Wine Bar is committed to helping assist the important work ahead of us required to address sexualized violence issues in hospitality through:

- helping form and participate on a steering committee to lead the creation of an online hospitality-focused training program for staff, managers, and owners;
- hosting a take-out fundraiser and silent auction in late May, 2021 to raise money to help establish this training; and
- providing dedicated training space within our restaurant for in-person training of Victoria hospitality staff.

We are also working on ways to simultaneously support The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre staff and volunteers.

We believe that hospitality businesses should take a leadership role in making necessary cultural changes to address the prevalence of sexualized violence in our industry and ensure all of our staff and guests are safe. We simultaneously believe that education is a key strategy in addressing these issues.

We support the direction of the motion that council passed in 2019 with regards to sexualized violence in the hospitality industry. With the recent disclosures of sexual violence in the Victoria hospitality and real estate communities, we are hopeful that the City of Victoria will focus resources to help foster sexualized violence awareness and prevention training programs.

We know the many challenges the City of Victoria is currently facing given the nature of the pandemic. However, we are hopeful that the City can find ways to support this important work moving forward. Please advise if there is any more information I can provide.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Derry  
Owner, The Collective Wine Bar & Kitchen  
Cook Street Village