



STATEMENT FROM MAYOR MIKE LEMAY

AUGUST 27, 2020

Upon reading Cindy Tran’s story this week of the racially-motivated verbal and physical assault suffered by her grandmother, Thi Nga Doan, I was incredibly disheartened, saddened, and angered. I strongly condemn the actions of the individuals involved, whose conduct is detrimental to the city we are working to create. The City of Pembroke has made a commitment to be a welcoming community for all and continues to work on policies and practices to ensure the voices of people of colour are heard and are included in the work we do.

This incident is currently under investigation by the Upper Ottawa Valley OPP and while we know a resolution to the case will not be able to take back the terrible actions that have been committed, we encourage anyone with any pertinent information to come forward.

Racism has no place in our society but is unfortunately prevalent across the world, and, as this incident and Cindy’s described encounters show, is sadly prevalent in Pembroke as well. I have spoken with the family involved to arrange a meeting to discuss their shared experiences and look forward to the opportunity to meet with them.

This incident demonstrates the need for us to work harder to promote welcoming values and show our residents that acceptance of all is the only way forward.