

LIBERAL ELECTION SIGNS VANDALIZED ACROSS RIDING

RASH OF INCIDENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION: POLICE

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Halton Regional Police are investigating after several federal election signs for the local Liberal candidate were vandalized.

Wellington-Halton Hills Liberal contender Melanie Lang said that her signs have been broken, spray painted, set on fire and even run over, with the latter filmed as part of an angry TikTok video where the driver shouts a profanity as he smashes into the sign with his vehicle.

"There's been a lot of vandalism. It's not just one area — it's actually happening across the whole riding," said Lang. "Going into this, I feel as though I had

"I am just flabbergasted at the type and the amount of vandalism that's taking place."

- Melanie Lang

eyes wide open, and I was expecting a little bit of damage here and there. But I am just flabbergasted at the type and the amount of vandalism that's taking place."

Lang isn't alone. The first-time candidate said she's part of a national women's Liberal group,

with many sharing their sign vandalism experiences during a recent call.

"There are many candidates on this call who are seasoned (political) veterans, and they say the targeted vandalism they're seeing in this election season is quite high," she said. "It's fear mongering, it's attempted intimidation, and it's just not OK."

Halton Regional Police media relations officer Const. Ryan Anderson said he can confirm that the local force has received complaints about campaign signs being stolen and vandalized, and that these incidents are being investigated.

"Anyone identified stealing or damaging a political sign could be charged with



Melanie Lang campaign team photo

One of several signs that Liberal candidate Melanie Lang says have been vandalized since the election campaign recently began.

mischief of theft under \$5,000 under the Criminal Code of Canada," he said.

In addition to the vandalism, Lang said she's had supporters call to return their lawn signs due to fears about having them on their

property, and profanities shouted at her children by passing motorists as they helped volunteers erect signs.

Out on the campaign trail, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's public events are

now commonly being attended by groups of people protesting COVID-19 vaccination mandates and pandemic restrictions, with one campaign rally in Bolton recently cancelled due to safety concerns.

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