



For Immediate Release
March 6, 2014

International Women's Day is poised as a day to bring attention to women, who are seen as the most vulnerable members of our society. Women have always fought for the rights of the under-represented and the vulnerable. The day celebrates that work and highlights that the work is not yet done.

Three women were formally charged with common assault in connection with an elder abuse investigation of a man in their care while working at the Carewest Garrison Green residential care facility. The Calgary Police Service (CPS) issued its release at roughly the same time that Mayor Naheed Nenshi expressed continued hurdles for women in the areas of domestic violence and elder abuse while speaking to hundreds of Calgarians celebrating women's progress to equality at the Jack Singer Concert Hall.

In early February 2014, the family of the man approached police with concerns of physical abuse by staff. As a result of an investigation by the CPS Elder Abuse Response Team and consultation with the Crown, Maria DUMO, 36, Angelina BORJA, 36 and May CASIMERO, 37, were each charged yesterday, March 5th, with one count of common assault.

"This is somber news for the many Calgary social service agencies and community leaders who are fighting for human rights and equality across genders, cultures and ages," says Andrea Silverstone, Executive Director of Peer Support Services for Abused Women and co-chair of the Calgary Domestic Violence Collective. "Violence committed against any person of any age is rooted in the need for power and control. Anyone that holds a position of trust, especially in care of vulnerable people, holds a special responsibility. These women not only violated that very special relationship, they also broke the law."

The Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) works with community partners to provide a coordinated response to violence prevention and intervention in Calgary. It works to help prevent domestic violence through increased public awareness, education, and improved legislation.

If you know a perpetrator of abuse, or someone experiencing abuse and in immediate danger call 911. For information, support and resources call *Connect Family and Sexual Abuse Network* 403-237-5888.

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