

For Immediate Release
September 25, 2013

Domestic Conflict Response Team expands to cover all of Calgary

After a successful pilot to tackle family violence, the Domestic Conflict Response Team (DCRT) is looking to expand and cover all communities across the city.

Made up of police officers, members of HomeFront, Calgary Area Child and Family Services and Closer to Home, this unique partnership aims to intervene in high-risk domestic conflict cases and offer assistance before the courts become involved.

With funding from the Safe Communities Innovation Fund, the team originally started in the northeast communities of Calgary in 2009. In 2012, the program was expanded to select communities in the south. Given the success of the program to date, DCRT will soon be available throughout Calgary.

The DCRT primarily focusses on domestic conflict situations where no charges have been laid, but the case is considered chronic or high risk with repeat or escalating violence.

“We review every domestic violence case we attend for certain risk factors,” says Insp. Cliff O’Brien. “Those that meet a certain criteria are referred to the DCRT. By bringing together intervention services, the team is able to maximize the response to a single call for help, offering a range of services and support.”

Since its inception, the DCRT has worked on more than 600 cases involving both adults and children. The DCRT targets any domestic situation where there are children in a home and family stability concerns are significant.

“By intervening earlier, the DCRT is able to reduce the likelihood that families will require crisis response in the future,” says Kevin McNichol, HomeFront Executive Director. “The program is not only about saving families, but about breaking the cycle of violence.”

In a recent survey, 91 per cent of clients working with the DCRT said there had been no further incidents of physical violence in their homes.

The DCRT gives families the opportunity and support to stop the domestic conflict and help the offender deal with their violent behaviours so all individuals in the home can live safe peaceful lives.

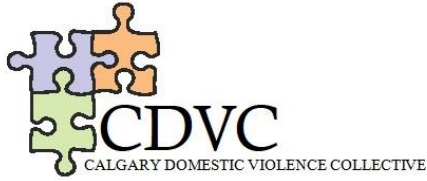
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Michael Nunn, Calgary Police Service 403-428-7979 (media line)

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic or sexual violence, help and support is available. Please call the Calgary Police Service at 911, Connect Family & Sexual Abuse Network 403-237-5888 (Toll Free:1-877-237-5888); 24-hour Family Violence Helpline 403-234-SAFE (7233); Family Violence Information Line 403-310-1818 (Toll Free); Distress Centre 403-266-HELP (4357) to access information, help and support for your needs.

The Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) is a collective of over 50 community partners working to provide a coordinated response to domestic and sexual violence prevention and intervention in Calgary. It works to help prevent domestic and sexual violence through increased public awareness, education, and improved legislation. Partners include:



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Action Coalition on Human Trafficking, AIDS Calgary Awareness Association, Alberta Child and Youth Services, Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, Alberta, Employment and Immigration, Alberta Health Services: Addictions and Mental Health, Aventa Addiction Treatment for Women, Awo Taan Healing Lodge, Brenda Stafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, Brenda Stafford Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Calgary Action Committee on Housing and Homelessness, Calgary and Area Child and Family Services, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, Calgary Catholic School District, Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens' Association, Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse, Calgary Counseling Centre, Calgary Immigrant Women's Association, Calgary John Howard Society, Calgary Legal Guidance, Calgary Police Services- Domestic Conflict Unit, Calgary Sexual Health Centre, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter, Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, Cerebral Palsy Association of Alberta, Child Advocacy Centre, Chinese Community Response to Family Violence, Community Corrections and Release Programs Branch, Alberta Solicitor General, Community Crisis Society of Strathmore: Wheatlands Shelter, CONNECT Family and Sexual Abuse Network, Developmental Disabilities Resources Centre of Calgary, Disability Action Hall, Discovery House, Distress Centre, East Calgary Family Violence Committee, Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary, Forensic Research Network, Further Education Society, HomeFront, Jane M. Oxenbury, M.Ed., R. Psych., Edan Counseling Associates, Jewish Family Service Calgary, Kerby Centre, Legal Aid Alberta, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Calgary and Area Chapter, Mustard Seed, Peer Support Services for Abused Women, Red Cross Society, Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) Alberta, Rowan House Emergency Shelters, Servants Anonymous Society, Service Canada, Sonshine Community Services, The Mustard Seed, United Way of Calgary and Area, University of Calgary - Faculty of Social Work, Women's Centre of Calgary, Youville Recovery Residence for Women, YWCA Banff, YWCA of Calgary