



**For Immediate Release**  
December 4, 2012

## **Response to Kansas City Chief's Linebacker Jovan Belcher Murder-Suicide**

**Calgary, Alta.** – On the morning of Dec. 1, Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher was heard arguing with his girlfriend, Kasandra Perkins, in their home, before shooting and killing her. He then left and went to the Chiefs' practice facility where he admitted to killing Perkins before turning the gun on himself.

Belcher's mother was living in the home Belcher and Perkins shared with their three-month-old daughter to help them overcome their issues with domestic violence. The Kansas City Chiefs have also reported knowing of the couple's problems and was providing counselling for Belcher. Less than a month prior, Ventrell Jenkins of the CFL's Montreal Alouettes was arrested in South Carolina for domestic violence against his fiancée, Deidre Hudson, reportedly beating her to the point where she was unrecognizable.

In addition to these recent incidents, in August former CFL Stampeder Joffrey Reynolds was charged with assault after an alleged attack on his estranged girlfriend. These high profile incidents remind us of the staggering statistics around domestic violence. Statistics in both the United States and in Canada indicate that about one out of four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes. According to Statistics Canada, every six days a Canadian woman is killed by someone she loves or has loved.

While these domestic violence incidences are high profile, domestic violence crosses all social, economic, ethnic and cultural boundaries. Victims could be your neighbour, family member, friend or colleague. Friends and families of both victims and perpetrators need to take an active role; everyone needs to speak out, phone 911, and refer victims and perpetrators to help lines and resources.

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	310-1818 (Toll Free)
Distress Centre	(403) 266-HELP (4357)

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.

### **Media Contacts:**

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**The CDVC works with community partners to provide a coordinated response to violence prevention in Calgary. Representatives include:**

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 Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, Brenda Strafford Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Calgary and Area Child and Family Services, Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens' Association, Calgary Communities, Against Sexual Violence, Calgary Counseling Centre, Calgary Immigrant Women's Association, 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, Chinese Community Response to Family Violence, Calgary Action Committee on Housing and Homelessness, 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, Discovery House, Distress Centre, Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary, 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, Peer Support Services for Abused Women, Rowan House Emergency Shelters, Servants Anonymous Society, Sonshine Community Services, United Way of Calgary and Area, Women's Centre of Calgary, Youville Recovery Residence for Women, YWCA Banff, YWCA of Calgary, or YWCA Emergency Shelter: Sheriff King Home