



**For Immediate Release**  
November 29, 2012

## **December third is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

**CALGARY** –The Action Committee on Disabilities and Abuse, a committee of the Calgary Domestic Violence Collective, would like to remind Calgarians that December 3rd is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Violence can take many forms and can happen to anyone; even our most vulnerable. It is important to remember that violence is never acceptable and that there is help available. The Action Committee on Disabilities and Abuse and the Calgary Domestic Violence Collective are encouraging everyone to break the silence, stand up and speak out against violence towards persons with disabilities. On December 3, 2012, the Calgary community and its business partners along with the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities invite you to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, recognizing the achievements and contributions of persons with a disability.

Persons with disabilities encounter many challenges in their societies and are often subjected to stigma and discrimination. They remain largely marginalized, disproportionately poorer, frequently unemployed and have higher rates of mortality. Canadian research shows that individual victimization rates for persons with disabilities are two to four times higher than for persons with no activity limitations, mental or behavioural disorders. Furthermore, persons with activity limitations were two to three times more likely to be victims of the most severe forms of domestic violence.

Persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population. Almost one-fifth of the estimated global total of persons living with disabilities, or between 110-190 million, encounter significant difficulties. Furthermore, a quarter of the global population is directly affected by disability, as care-givers or family members.

If you think someone you know is experiencing family violence, reach out by calling Connect at 403-237-5888. Multilingual 24 hour help; one phone call connects you to Calgary's entire network of services and support. To learn more, visit [www.connectnetwork.ca](http://www.connectnetwork.ca)

Connect Family & Sexual Abuse Network  
24-hour Family Violence Helpline  
Family Violence Information Line  
Distress Centre

(403) 237-5888 (Toll Free:1-877-237-5888)  
(403) 234-SAFE (7233)  
310-1818 (Toll Free)  
(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 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