



For Immediate Release
June 1, 2012

Airdrie murder-suicide is a reminder of severity of Domestic Violence in Alberta

CALGARY – The RCMP have not yet confirmed that the three bodies discovered along a rural road in Saskatchewan was the result of a murder-suicide, but officers are not pursuing any suspects in relation with the case.

Darren Wourms, 26, his wife Haley Wourms, 23, and their son Cayden, 2 were found dead in a ditch. A .22 calibre rifle was recovered at the scene. This murder-suicide is another reminder of the prevalence of domestic violence in Alberta. Alberta currently has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in Canada and is a community issue that can only be solved if we start talking about it openly. One of the keys to prevention is learning how to support friends, family and colleagues who are experiencing abuse. Early intervention could save lives.

The Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) works with community partners to provide a coordinated response to violence prevention in Calgary and strongly believes that increasing public awareness, providing education, and working to improve legislation can assist in prevention. This murder-suicide is yet another reminder of the existence of domestic violence within Alberta.

Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) defines domestic violence as the attempt, act or intent of someone within a relationship, where the relationship is characterized by intimacy, dependency or trust, to intimidate either by threat or by the use of physical force on another person or property. The purpose of the abuse is to control and or exploit through neglect, intimidation, inducement of fear or by inflicting pain. Abusive behavior can take many forms including: verbal, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, spiritual, and economic and the violation of rights. All forms of abusive behavior are ways in which one human being is trying to have control and/or exploit or have power over another.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, please call the following 24-hour help phone numbers:

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)

Media Contacts:

Jean Dunbar, YWCA Calgary: (403) 294-3662
Jane Oxenbury, Edan Counselling Associates: (403) 255-7004
Lisa Falkowsky, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter: (403) 589-4044
Kevin McNichol, HomeFront: (403) 206-2100 Ext. 223
Andrea Silverstone, Peer Support Services for Abused Women: (403) 616-7673.

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

Peer Support Services for Abused Women, Discovery House, Brenda Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary
United Way of Calgary and Area, CONNECT Family and Sexual Abuse Network, Calgary and Area Child and Family Services, Alberta Child and Youth Services
HomeFront, Community Action Committee, Alberta Employment and Immigration, Alberta Mental Health, Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, Alberta Council of Women's
Shelters, YWCA of Calgary, YWCA Banff, Brenda Strafford Society, Youville Recovery Residence for Women, Aventa Addiction Treatment for Women, Servants Anonymous Society
Sonshine Community Services, Awo Taan Healing Lodge, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter, Community Crisis Society of Strathmore: Wheatlands Shelter, Rowan House Emergency
Shelters, Calgary Communities Against Sexual Violence, Kerby Centre, Chinese Community Response to Family Violence, Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens' Association, Calgary Immigrant
Women's Association, Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary, Jewish Family Service Calgary, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Calgary and Area Chapter, Legal Aid Alberta, Calgary Legal Guidance
Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, Edan Counseling Associates, Calgary Counseling Centre, Distress Centre, Calgary Police Services, Community Corrections and Release
Programs Branch, Alberta Solicitor General, Calgary Sexual Health Centre, Developmental Disabilities Resources Centre of Calgary, AIDS Calgary Awareness Association
Women's Centre of Calgary