



**For Immediate Release**  
June 5, 2012

## **Honour Killings in Canada – A community issue, not just a family issue**

**CALGARY** – The Calgary city police have recognized the growing number of honour crimes in Canada and have taken a proactive response by increasing training and education around this issue. The well-known Shafia family case in Ontario—where three young women and their mother were murdered by their own family members - reminds us of the presence of honour crimes in Canada.

Honour abuse includes both physical and emotional harm. Victims can be targeted based on the way they dress, who they are friends with, having intimacy before marriage or even rumours of these actions. Although victims are usually young women, men also experience honour violence. It's critical for people to speak out if they are aware of or suspect domestic abuse within a household. There are many community resources available to assist with any type of domestic violence situation.

The Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) works with community partners to provide a coordinated response to violence prevention in Calgary. We strongly believe that increasing public awareness, providing education, and working to improve legislation can assist in prevention.

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; as well as 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:**

Andrea Silverstone, Peer Support Services for Abused Women: (403) 616-7673

Jane Oxenbury, Edan Counselling Associates: (403) 255-7004

Kevin McNichol, HomeFront: (403) 206-2100 Ext. 223

Jean Dunbar, YWCA Calgary: (403) 294-3662

Lisa Falkowsky, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter: (403) 589-4044

### **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 Stafford 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 Stafford 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