



**For Immediate Release**  
November 8, 2011

**Domestic violence sector responds to northeast Calgary homicide**  
Man charged in common-law wife's death

**CALGARY** – After a successful police search, a man was charged with second-degree murder after a woman was found dead Friday evening.

At 6:50 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 4, 2011, the Calgary Police Service were called to a residence in the 3600 block of 39 Street N.E. Upon arrival, officers discovered the body of a woman in her 40s inside the home.

An investigation and search for the suspect was launched immediately, and on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2011, a man was taken into custody. Gregory Sanders Houle, 44, of Calgary, has been charged with second degree murder in the death of his common-law wife.

Members of the Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) – a partnership of local agency representatives – believe this case is yet another example of the prevalence of domestic violence in our community and how the stigma against seeking help for what seems like a private family matter can ultimately result in tragedy.

“People may not know who to turn to in these situations,” said Kevin McNichol, Executive Director, HomeFront. “As a collective, we work together to provide support and necessary treatment to help prevent tragedies such as this from occurring.”

The Calgary Police Service responds to more than 16,000 domestic violence calls annually. This is the first domestic homicide in Calgary in 2011, which speaks to the collaborative work being done to help prevent domestic violence. CDVC encourages Calgarians who suspect they know someone affected by domestic violence, to reach out and connect with the numerous agencies available for help.

A press conference will be held today, Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011, at 11 a.m., on the third floor of the Andrew Davidson Building. S/Sgt. Doug Andrus will be available to speak to the media today. He will be joined by S/Sgt. Patty McCallum of the Domestic Conflict Team, as well as representatives of the Calgary Domestic Violence Collective.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, please call one of the following 24-hour help lines:

Connect Family & Sexual Abuse Network	403-237-5888
Family Violence Information Line	310-1818 (Toll Free)
Distress Centre	403-266-HELP (4357)
YWCA Sheriff King Home	403-266-0707
Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter – 24-hour Family Violence Help Line	403-234-SAFE (7233)

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**Media Contact:**

Jean Dunbar, YWCA of Calgary: 403-294-3662  
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 Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) works with community partners to provide a coordinated response to violence prevention in Calgary. Representatives include:**

Alberta Mental Health Board. Alberta Solicitor General (Probation). Calgary Counselling Centre.  
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association. Calgary Legal Guidance. Calgary Police Service. Calgary and Area Women's Shelter Network.  
Connect Family and Sexual Abuse Network. Distress Centre. Edan Counselling Associates.  
HomeFront. Kerby Centre. Peer Support Services for Abused Women.