



For Immediate Release
September 15, 2014

Woman found dead in Southwest Calgary

CALGARY –Calgary Police Service (CPS) has charged a man related to the city's 26th homicide this year. At approximately 12:30 pm, Sunday, September 14, 2014, police responded to reports of a woman in medical distress in southwest Calgary. A woman in her 40s was found dead at the scene.

"This is a very tragic situation, and one that reminds us of the important role we all have to play in reducing violence in our community," says Andrea Silverstone, Executive Director, *Peer Support Services for Abused Woman*. "Domestic violence situations can escalate very quickly and we need to encourage people to trust their instincts. If you, or someone you know is feeling scared or unsafe, reach out for help. There are numerous resources available in our community that are prepared to support anyone experiencing domestic violence."

An act of domestic violence is seldom an isolated incident. Perpetrators use violence as a way to gain power and control over an individual in their relationships. Alberta has some of the highest rates of reported domestic violence in the country and this case demonstrates the prevalence of the issue, as well as the continued need for the community to speak up and break the silence. Members of the Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) believe that everyone has the right to be safe.

CDVC partner organizations are helping to develop a community of care for anyone experiencing domestic violence, or who know someone in need of help. There are numerous agencies in Calgary available 24 hours a day that provide safe, accessible and inclusive support. If the danger is immediate, call 911.

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)

Scott Munrow Ferguson, age 24, of Calgary has been charged with second degree murder. Investigators believe the suspect and victim were in a relationship.

Media Contacts:

Andrea Silverstone, Peer Support Services for Abused Woman – 403-616-7673
Elsbeth Mehrer, YWCA of Calgary – 403-809-4168
Brigitte Baradoy, Discovery House Family Violence Prevention Society – 403-860-9412

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.

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.