



**For Immediate Release**  
August 9, 2016

## **The Calgary Domestic Violence Collective shows support for Bill 204**

**CALGARY, AB** – The Government of Alberta announced today that a private member’s bill introduced in November 2015 by MLA Deborah Drever to support individuals fleeing domestic violence came into effect on August 8, 2016.

Bill 204 is formally referred to as the *Residential Tenancies (Safer Spaces for Victims of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act* and it will help to remove added barriers and financial pressures for individuals impacted by domestic violence. The bill allows victims of abuse to end a lease or tenancy agreement early, without penalty, by providing their landlord with a Safer Spaces Certificate. This certificate is obtained from the Ministry of Human Services when a tenant submits either an emergency protection order (EPO), peace bond, or a statement from a doctor, nurse, social worker, psychologist, or other professional identifying that they are in a dangerous situation.

The Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) believes that no one deserves to live in an abusive environment and therefore strongly supports Bill 204. The CDVC believes this new law will help minimize added stressors that many victims of domestic violence face when they choose to flee the abuse.

“Victims of domestic violence often face many barriers to leaving an abusive situation, one of which is housing. Bill 204 will help remove this barrier and allow victims to remain safe,” says Kim Ruse, Executive Director, Calgary Women’s Emergency Shelter, “Minister McLean, MLA Drever and the Government of Alberta are to be commended for their commitment in supporting victims and for demonstrating the significance of the issue of violence against women in our community.”

We thank MLA Drever, Minister McLean, and the Government of Alberta for their efforts in passing this bill and for taking further steps to support victims of domestic violence in our community. As a collective, we know that we are stronger when we bring our resources together, and we look forward to working alongside the Government of Alberta to ensure there is widespread awareness about the *Residential Tenancies Act*.

CDVC partner organizations are helping to develop a community of care for anyone experiencing domestic or sexual violence. Please contact the resources listed below for support if you or someone you know may be experiencing domestic abuse. If the danger is immediate, call 9-1-1.

If you are experiencing or have questions about domestic abuse, please call: 403-234-7233 (SAFE).

If you are experiencing or have questions about sexual abuse and sexual assault, please call: 403-237-5888.

### **For additional support, please call:**

Distress Centre	403-266-HELP (4357)
Family Violence Information Line	310-1818 (Toll Free)

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### **Media Contacts:**

Kim Ruse, Executive Director, Calgary Women’s Emergency Shelter: 587-433-7603

*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.*