



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2017

Research Shows that Reports of Domestic Violence Increase during Summer Events

CALGARY, AB – The Calgary Domestic Violence Collective welcomes this School of Public Policy report as another dimension to the continually evolving picture of domestic abuse in our city and an important reminder about steps which can be taken to prevent violence. The more we learn about which dates and events correlate with higher than average domestic violence reports to police, the more we can tailor the approaches to preventing domestic violence from happening.

However, Calgarians must keep in mind that domestic violence is a crime that happens year round in our city and many people are affected by its potentially tragic impacts. We are reminded of this fact today as a result of the tragic domestic shooting that occurred in our city overnight. As a community it's important that we work year round to support individuals and families who've been impacted by this crime.

"It's important to make the distinction between correlations and causes of abuse. While there may be more violence happening on certain days or in certain economic conditions, it's not only happening on those days. Domestic abuse is not caused by the onset of summer, the Calgary Stampede or football games," said Kim Ruse, Executive Director at the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter (CWES).

While increased use and misuse of alcohol may exacerbate abusive dynamics, it is not the cause of domestic violence. The cause is always one individual in a relationship trying to exert power and control over another. It is always the perpetrator who is responsible for their own actions. While environmental factors can cause an escalation in existing relationship problems, they do not cause them.

In the words of one crisis shelter team-member in Calgary "drinking doesn't cause domestic abuse and sobriety doesn't cure it."

We applaud the report's recommendations to support publicly funded childcare and affordable family outings.

We hope we can continue working with sporting and entertainment organizations to provide education about gender equality and healthy relationship skills and to assist bystanders. By promoting the knowledge of where and when domestic violence can be more likely to occur and the factors that lead to it, we may be able to better address the prevention of this issue and potentially see a reduced rate of it in our communities.

The Calgary Domestic Violence Collective also encourages anyone experiencing domestic or sexual violence to reach out for help.



If you are in immediate danger, **Call 9-1-1**. If you believe you are experiencing domestic abuse, call the **24-hour Family Violence Helpline at 403-234-SAFE (7233)**. If you have been sexually abused in an intimate relationship call the **24-hour Sexual Violence Support and Information Hotline at 403-237-5888**. To report domestic abuse or violence call the **Calgary Police Service Non-Emergency Line at 403-266-1234**.

Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) serves as the voice for agencies that are working to end domestic and sexual violence in Calgary. The CDVC is made up of over 60 organizations and community groups, including members from the not-for-profit, law enforcement and healthcare sectors. Members work together to coordinate what supports are being offered to victims of domestic and sexual violence, discuss public policy ideas that could help address the issues of domestic and sexual violence and educate the public.

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 media enquiries, please call:

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