

November 4, 2010 – For Immediate Release

News Release

Oprah show hits home

Local support services applaud Oprah on her ground-breaking event, scheduled for Nov. 5, 2010 - "200 Adult Men who were Molested Come Forward"

Calgary, AB – Nov. 4, 2010 Calgary Counselling Centre (CCC) and Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CCASA) together applaud Oprah's ground-breaking television event, scheduled for Nov. 5, 2010: "200 Adult Men who were Molested Come Forward".

"It is shows like this on television that will help shift the stigma of sexual violence," says Robbie Babins-Wagner, CEO, CCC. "It's time to bring attention to this hidden issue."

Starting this Friday for two shows, Oprah plans to have an entire audience of men "Two hundred men courageously stand together to say they were all molested", according to her website. It follows a highly talked about show on Oct. 18, 2010, in which Hollywood mogul Tyler Perry revealed the devastating details of his childhood sexual abuse.

Not everybody has the benefit of getting support from Oprah, but CCC and CCASA want to ensure that survivors in Southern Alberta are aware they have somewhere to go for help.

Instances of male sexual abuse are common. A 1994 study uncovered that one in six men from Calgary have experienced child sexual abuse by age 16 (Bagley, Wood, Young – 1994). Male victimization is particularly relevant to Calgarians in light of recent cases featured in the media, where boys and men have alleged sexual assault.

"The percentage of boys who will experience sexual abuse is higher than the percentage of women who will be diagnosed with breast cancer," says Danielle Aubry, Executive Director, CCASA. "This issue has been ignored for so long, because there's still a perception of men only as abusers – it makes it hard to see they can be victims as well."

This issue is notoriously difficult for survivors to talk about, especially men who may have additional concerns about how they perceive their own masculinity. CCC and CCASA encourage Calgarians who are affected by sexual abuse, to reach out and connect with the agencies available who are working towards a common goal of ending abuse. Unlike many cities, Calgary has a seamless continuum of services, providing our city with safe, accessible and inclusive support for individuals and families affected by abuse.

"Like all forms of abuse, the abusers are usually someone close to the person experiencing abuse," says Babins-Wagner. "That's a massive betrayal of trust, but there are agencies in Calgary that can help."

Calgary Counselling Centre	403.691.5991
CCASA 24-Hour Support and Information Line	403-237-5888/ 1-877-237-8888 (toll free line)
Male Domestic Abuse Outreach Program	403.691.5954

Sexual assault is a crime of violence, not passion. It is about using sex as a weapon to gain power over another person, to hurt, dominate, humiliate, and control. All forms of sexual behaviour wherein a person is forced, tricked, or coerced into sexual acts without their consent or is left feeling violated sexually are included within the definition of sexual violence.

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For more information about the study, or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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Calgary Counselling Centre is a registered charitable organization, and the leading research and knowledge-based counselling facility in Canada. Since 1962, the Centre has been committed to providing compassionate, professional and affordable counselling services that help build better lives for Calgarians through positive outcomes. Offering service in over 15 languages, the Centre is also a recognized leader in the treatment of family violence, depression, self esteem and eating disorders. Through its ongoing research and education programs, Calgary Counselling Centre strives to meet the changing needs of our community.

Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse is the primary sexual assault and sexual abuse crisis and education service provider for Calgary and surrounding areas. We believe sexual abuse and sexual assault are acts of violence that affect all individuals, families and communities. Our guiding principle is: Sexual violence is based in the abuse of power and control and is a significant part of the broader continuum of abuse, assault and violence.