



Calgary Counselling Centre

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*Family Therapy
Couple Counselling
Individual Counselling
Group Counselling*

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For Immediate Release

Domestic dispute leaves man with life-threatening injuries

CALGARY – Yesterday’s violent stabbing in Forest Lawn is another harsh reminder of why domestic abuse in Calgary is an issue for both men and women.

Sunday afternoon a 23 year old male became the victim of yet another violent domestic dispute in our city. The man is in critical condition from stab wounds to the chest. His 27 year old female partner has been charged with aggravated assault and assault with a weapon.

“This is another sad example of how domestic abuse can transcend gender. We know approximately 15 per cent of reported domestic abuse identifies males as the primary victim,” says Mike Mackenzie, Coordinator - Male Domestic Abuse Outreach Program, Calgary Counselling Centre.

Calgary Counselling Centre has been at the forefront of the fight against domestic abuse in our community for a quarter century. At a time when Alberta has the highest rate of domestic abuse in Canada, it is imperative that the issue be high priority on Calgary’s community agenda.

The Centre offers several programs for individuals and families struggling with domestic abuse. Turn for the Better is a treatment program designed specifically for men who experience abuse in their intimate relationships. Calgary Counselling Centre was the first to provide a program for male victims of abuse.

The Centre also provides a Responsible Choices treatment program for women who are abusive in intimate relationships.

This week Calgary Counselling Centre is hosting “An Evening with Calgary’s Bravest Men” and the 2006 Conference on Family Violence Treatment. The events will serve to open dialogue on the issue of domestic abuse in our community as well as create conversation on treatment programs for individuals and families who experience abuse.

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*Depression
Stress
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Employee and Family
Assistance Programs*



Backgrounder

Calgary Counselling Centre has been providing treatment programs to men and women who are abusive or have experienced abuse for 25 years and today offers some of the most innovative and comprehensive domestic abuse counselling programs in North America.

Turn for the Better is the Centre's treatment program for men who have experienced abuse in intimate relationships. We recognize that men can experience verbal, physical and emotional abuse and threats of violence. The group program focuses on therapeutic change for men who want to be part of a healthy, non-abusive relationship in the future. Themes explored in Turn for the Better include:

- Safety plans
- Resistance to violence
- Context of violence
- Maintaining change
- Relationship with self

Responsible Choices is a group program for women who use abuse in intimate relationships. The program is designed to help women understand and change their aggressive, abusive behaviour and violent outbursts. Themes explored include:

- Anger versus violence
- Facing up to shame
- Empathy
- Being responsible and developing responsibility plans

All domestic abuse treatment programs at Calgary Counselling Centre focus on the impact of abuse on self, families and relationships; gender roles, expectations and beliefs that support violence; healthy relationships and commitment to non-violence.

Our goal is to help those struggling with abuse take responsibility for their actions and choices and that each individual may gain confidence in their ability to co-create healthy, abuse-free relationships.

The 2006 Conference on Family Violence Treatment and “An Evening with Calgary’s Bravest Men” are being hosted by Calgary Counselling Centre as part of its commitment to promote advocacy, awareness and counselling treatment of domestic abuse.

The conference, which runs May 11th to May 13th, will feature experts in the area of family violence. Speakers and topics include:

- Victor Rivers: *A Private Family Matter*
- Alyce LaViolette: *Assessing & Managing Risk- Application to Practice*
- Kevin McNichol: *Coordinated Community Response*
- Daniel Saunders: *Interventions for Men Who Batter – Some Promising Innovations*
- Debra Levesque: *Readiness for Change – Research and Application to Practice*
- Alan Jenkins: *Working With Men Who Use Violence*

Other speakers include Leslie Tutty, Michael Rothery and Robbie Babins-Wagner.

“An Evening with Calgary’s Bravest Men” is an opportunity for the most influential men in our community, and their equally visionary partners, to speak out against domestic abuse. Male perpetrators were responsible for nearly 70 per cent of new cases of family violence at Calgary Counselling Centre in 2005.

The event features Victor Rivers, a former Miami Dolphin, actor, author and victim of domestic abuse. Rivers will share his compelling story to help break the stigma associated with the domestic abuse of men.

Engaging men in dialogue on family violence is the first step in having them emerge as leaders in the community who will take action against domestic abuse.

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