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News Release

Calgary Chief Crown Prosecutor Gordon Wong receives “Calgary’s Bravest Man” Award – Oct. 23, 2008

Calgary, AB – Oct. 23, 2008 – Calgary Counselling Centre will honour Gordon (Gord) Wong, Chief Crown Prosecutor as the 2008 Calgary’s Bravest Man Award recipient, for his remarkable work moving the Calgary Court system to be more responsive to the prosecution of domestic abuse cases. The honour will be awarded at Calgary’s Bravest Men – a Calgary Counselling Centre event this evening.

The Calgary’s Bravest Man Award recognizes a prominent male community leader who has made a remarkable contribution to raising awareness of the issue of domestic abuse in Calgary. Award nominees are selected for their achievements in advocating for the prevention of domestic abuse by speaking publicly about the issue and committing to the cause by serving as a volunteer on domestic abuse prevention or related committees.

Since taking the Chief Crown Prosecutor office in 2002, Gord Wong expanded the way domestic abuse prosecution is handled at the Calgary courts system – ensuring the courts address the recommendations from the 1990 Mayor’s Task Force on Community and Family Violence, to address forms of violence in Calgary. In the community, Gord has worked with a wide group of non-profit agencies connected to the Justice system to ensure effective collaboration between the sectors. Gord was committed to the launch of a dedicated domestic violence trial court in Calgary to complement the first appearance court.

Modeled after best practices, Calgary’s court system now has a passionate group of prosecutors dedicated specifically to domestic abuse cases. Because they only deal with Domestic Abuse criminal prosecution, their expertise in dealing with the broad range of domestic abuse cases has strengthened. Calgary now has both a first appearance court and a trial court as an integrated system. The lead time from initial charges to prosecution is shorter and there are specialized prosecutors who take people through the legal system.

Over 170 of Calgary’s corporate leaders will attend the 3rd annual Calgary’s Bravest Men event. The Centre’s inspiring event encourages Calgary’s bravest and most influential men, and their equally visionary partners, to stand up and contribute their voices to the dialogue on domestic abuse.

“The men in our lives can make a difference - to support and lead the cause” says Robbie Babins-Wagner, Calgary Counselling Centre CEO. “The 2008 Bravest Man Award emphasizes the importance of male voices openly recognizing and talking about domestic abuse and calls our leaders to action on a local level.”

Gord Wong follows Al Duerr, the inaugural recipient of Calgary’s Bravest Man Award in 2007, for his efforts to bring the issue of abuse onto the political agenda.

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For more information and interviews, 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. The Centre’s fee structure is based on income - no one is turned away for an inability to pay.

