



**Calgary Counselling Centre**  
**Gordon Wong Backgrounder**

Gordon (Gord) Wong, Chief Crown Prosecutor is recognized as the 2008 Calgary's Bravest Man Award recipient for moving the Calgary Court system to be more responsive to the prosecution of domestic violence cases.

Since taking the Chief Crown Prosecutor office in 2002, Gord Wong expanded the way Domestic Violence prosecution is handled at the Calgary courts system – ensuring the courts address some of the recommendations from the Mayor's Task Force on Community and Family Violence, headed by former MLA Ron Ghitter to address forms of violence in Calgary. In the community, Gord has represented the Crown's office on the HomeFront Board and on the Collaborative Services Centre planning committee. He 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. We now have both a first appearance court and a trial court as a an integrated system

Modelled after best practices, Calgary's court system now has a passionate group of prosecutors dedicated specifically to domestic violence cases. Because they only deal with Domestic Violence criminal prosecution, their expertise in dealing with the broad range of domestic violence cases has strengthened. The lead time from initial charges to prosecution is shorter and there are specialized prosecutors who take people through the legal system.

With two prominent and distinct careers — one with Alberta Justice and one with the Canadian Naval Reserves — Gordon Wong became Calgary's Chief Crown Prosecutor in 2002.

Wong began his navy career in 1977 as a naval reserve officer cadet and worked his way up through the ranks. In 1996, he became the first commanding officer of a brand-new ship called HMCS Edmonton. In 1983, while he was still active in the navy, he began his career with Alberta Justice, and by 1984, he was a Crown prosecutor in the Calgary office, where he has been ever since.

Due to a larger public awareness of violence, the number of domestic assaults reported has steadily increased, enabling Calgary Police and other community partners, including the Calgary Counselling Centre, to take immediate action. Although reported incidents of domestic violence have been declining, concern remains about the persistence of spousal homicide in Calgary. Eight of Calgary's 26 homicides in 2007 were domestic; over the past 5 years, 25 percent have been domestic. Gordon Wong's persistence and dedication to change our courts, opening the door to new and innovative approaches to violence prevention, enabling Calgary to operate effective committees and programs to raise awareness for forms of abuse and prevention initiatives and to be a leader in prevention and treatment in Canada.

For more information:

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