



Nov. 29, 2011

News Release

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## Calgary Counselling Centre has higher completion rate for family violence groups

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Calgary, AB – Nov. 29, 2011 – During Alberta’s Family Violence Prevention month, one of Calgary’s key counselling agencies is pleased to report they are making a difference in family violence treatment. In 2010, The Wilson Centre at Calgary Counselling Centre had higher completion rate for all of their family violence groups – at least 12 per cent higher in most groups.

“Our men’s group rates are exceptional,” says Dr. Robbie Babins-Wagner, CEO. “When we looked at groups for men and women who are abusive in intimate relationships - both experienced exceptional rates of completion. The statistic was the same for people mandated to treatment, as those who came voluntarily. We are extremely proud to get rates significantly higher than the U.S. industry average.”

Traditionally, domestic violence offender treatment programs providing service to those who are abusive in intimate relationships found that an average of 62.2 per cent of participants completed treatment. Calgary Counselling Centre’s group completion rates are:

- Men’s program - Responsible Choices for Men - 76.2 per cent completion rate in 2010; a 72 per cent completion rate in the last eight years.
- Women’s program - Responsible Choices for Women - 75 per cent completion rate in 2010; a 64.8 per cent completion rate in the last eight years.

Group completion rates are important. Increased group completion means an increased likelihood for more positive impacts for the individual (e.g. better communication strategies, more self-awareness, better understanding of aggression and abuse) and for others (i.e. individual learns the skills to prevent future/additional violence).

“Research tells us that clients who fail to complete treatment may be at risk to engage in further abusive behaviours,” says Dr. Babins-Wagner. “People who do not complete treatment are at higher risk for recidivism (i.e. police visits, domestic abuse charges).”

The Wilson Centre for Domestic Abuse Studies at Calgary Counselling Centre is a prominent counselling, training, and research Centre in North America for those affected by domestic abuse. Our innovative programs provide the highest level of treatment, to men, women and children who abuse or have been abused.

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Family Violence Prevention Month started in 1986 as a local initiative in the town of Hinton, Alberta where concerned residents launched a family violence education and prevention campaign. This grassroots effort inspired the Alberta Legislature to support family violence prevention as an ongoing provincial initiative, resulting in the inception of Family Violence Prevention Month. Today, hundreds of Alberta communities and thousands of individuals are actively involved in preventing family violence through education and service provision. For more information about what you can do to “END the Silence. STOP the Violence,” visit [www.familyviolence.alberta.ca](http://www.familyviolence.alberta.ca).

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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 barrier-free services, the Centre is also a recognized leader in the treatment of family violence, depression, eating disorders and self-esteem issues. Through its ongoing research and education programs, Calgary Counselling Centre strives to meet the changing needs of our community.