



Creating Hopeful Futures

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Press Release



For immediate release

Victoria - Victoria Women's Transition House Society Commends Efforts of Regional Domestic Violence Unit, Calls on Ministries to Revitalize Support to Stop Violence Against Women

Following the recent announcements of a cut in the Victoria Police Department resources available to the Victoria Regional Domestic Violence Unit (RDVU), the Victoria Women's Transition House is calling on Provincial and Federal bodies to commit meaningful financial support towards specialized units to stop domestic violence.

" We have been proud to be part of the RDVU for the past two years and feel the model shows great promise in supporting women, with and without children, who are escaping abuse in their homes," says VWTH Executive Director Makenna Rielly.

"But any cut to services is a problem and this recent cut in police services gravely affects the ability of the RDVU to support and in some cases, save the lives of women who are trying to escape violence in their home. This is not just a bureaucratic issue. Women and children in Victoria will be affected by this cut in services."

The Regional Domestic Violence Unit has been operational since July 2010. The Unit consists of six members and administrative support. The members include:

one Victoria Police, one West Shore RCMP, one Saanich Police, two Victim Services Workers from Victoria Women's Transition House, and one Ministry of Children and Family Development Social Worker. Further funding contributions are made by Oak Bay Police, Central Saanich Police, Sidney/North Saanich RCMP, and Sooke RCMP.

The unit provides follow-up investigation, risk assessment, offender management, safety planning for victims and children, and intensive support for victims.

"Domestic violence against women is an issue that impacts communities at the most fundamental level. More than 50% of women in BC over 16 report having experienced physical violence. Meaningful financial supports must be committed by our government to ensure services like the RDVU are available to women when their homes are not a safe place to be," says Rielly.

Statistics Canada reported in 2009, over 40,000 arrests result from domestic violence, about 12% of all violent crime in Canada. However, only 22% of all domestic violence incidents are reported to the police.

For more information on the Victoria Women's Transition House Society, visit www.transitionhouse.net or call 250-592-2927. A crisis and information line is available 24/7 at 250-385-6611.

The Victoria Women's Transition House, working collaboratively, provides shelter, support, counselling and education to women of all ages, with or without children, so that they can live free from the effects of abuse in intimate relationships. The Society strives to eliminate abuse through education, advocacy and partnerships.

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