



*Creating Hopeful Futures*

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## PRESS RELEASE



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### **MP Nathan Cullen joins Mission: Transition raising funds and awareness for Victoria Women's Transition House Society**

Victoria - Member of Parliament and Opposition House Leader Nathan Cullen is drawing attention to domestic and relationship violence prevention as part of his participation in the Victoria GoodLife Fitness Marathon on October 7. Mr. Cullen has pledged to raise funds for the Victoria Women's Transition House (VWTH), a Victoria based charity offering emergency shelter and support services to women and children escaping abuse.

"Transition Houses for women escaping domestic violence are sadly far too well used in communities across BC and Canada," said Mr. Cullen, MP for the sprawling northernwest riding of Skeena-Bulkley-Valley.

"I welcome the pledge program as a way for me to support and raise awareness for this issue that affects all of us directly and indirectly." "Physical or sexual violence has touched the lives of more than 50% of women over 16 in Canada; women are 13 times more likely to be assaulted at home than on the street. We have to work together to stop violence and make home a safe place for women and children."

Says VWTH Executive Director Makenna Rielly, "We were delighted when Mr. Cullen contacted us to voice his support and his intent to run for our cause. As an elected representative and Opposition House Leader, we greatly appreciate his significant influence and ability to draw attention to the need to prevent domestic violence and support the women and children who are survivors of abuse.

"The voices of both men and women are needed and welcome as we call to protect the rights of women and children to live free of abuse in their homes."

In BC between 1999 and 2004, an average of 20,000 women per year experienced violence by a partner. Children are present during 80% of women assault incidents.

Mr. Cullen selected the Victoria Women's Transition House from a list of non-profit organizations that runners are being invited to support for this year's GoodLife Marathon. Mr. Cullen has been a tireless advocate for programming for abused women and children in his riding.

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

More information on the Goodlife Fitness Marathon is available at [www.runvictoriamarathon.com](http://www.runvictoriamarathon.com).

*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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