



**BC Association of Specialized
Victim Assistance &
Counselling Programs**



**Ending Relationship
Abuse Society of BC**

April 25, 2008

HIGH-PROFILE MEN SPEAK OUT IN A NEW, NON-PARTISAN FILM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Backgrounder to Press Release

Filmmakers

Beyond Your Eye Productions

Producer

The BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs (BCASVACP) is a charitable, non-profit organization that provides services to over 200 funded anti-violence programs across BC. We provide support and training, undertake research, develop and distribute resources and tools, educate the public and government bodies on the needs of victims of violence, develop and maintain standards for the provision of service, and foster the development of cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration.

In collaboration with

The Ending Relationship Abuse Society of BC provides education for those who are committed to the provision of high quality treatment services in BC for individuals who use abuse in relationships by: providing conferences and training for the public and professionals, developing guiding principles for professionals providing relationship abuse offender treatment, collecting and disseminating information on prevention and intervention responses to relationship abuse, and maintaining an educational website, with the ultimate goal of ending abuse in intimate relationships.

Appearing in the film

Evan Adams, MD, Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor

Robin Austin, NDP MLA for Skeena

Harry Bains, NDP MLA for Surrey-Newton

Howard Chow, Media and Public Affairs Officer, Vancouver Police

Ujjal Dosanjh, Federal Liberal Member of Parliament for South Vancouver

Corky Evans, NDP MLA for Nelson-Creston

Steve Hunt, Director, United Steelworkers Union

Blair Lekstrom, Liberal MLA for Peace River South

Doug LePar, Deputy Chief Constable, Vancouver Police

Hon Wally Oppal, Liberal MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview and Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism

Doug Routley, NDP MLA for Cowichan-Ladysmith
John Rustad, Liberal MLA for Prince George-Omineca
Jim Sinclair, President, BC Federation of Labour
Dr Harry Stefanakis, Psychologist and Expert, Assaultive Men's Treatment
John Yap, Liberal MLA for Richmond-Steveston

Bios of Speakers at the Film Premiere

Debbie Andersen, Executive Director, Community Programs Branch, Ministry of Community Services
(Bio not available)

Harry Bains, NDP MLA, Surrey-Newton
Harry Bains has been the MLA for Surrey Newton since 2005. Harry serves as Opposition Critic for the Olympics. Harry has been active in the Surrey community for many years. He has years of experience in education having served on the Kwantlen College Board of Governors between 1993 and 1999. He has also volunteered with organizations like Habitat for Humanity. Harry was an elected officer of Steelworkers-IWA Canada local 2171 for over fifteen years. He served most recently as Vice president of his local, where he led negotiations and engaged in bargaining for better working conditions for working people.

Ujjal Dosanjh, Federal Liberal MP
A long time human rights and social justice activist, Ujjal has been involved in community work with many organizations such as the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, MOSAIC, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, and the Vancouver Multicultural Society. During his ten years in the Provincial Legislature as an NDP MLA, he held cabinet portfolios as Minister of Government Services with additional responsibility for Multiculturalism, Human Rights and Sports; and Attorney General of British Columbia. On February 24, 2000, Ujjal was sworn in as the 33rd Premier of the Province of British Columbia. During his tenure as Attorney General and Premier Mr. Dosanjh was responsible for many initiatives on reform of the justice system, equality, environment and social justice. After serving as Premier until May 2001, Ujjal returned to practicing law. He made the leap to federal politics in June 2004 when he was elected Member of Parliament for Vancouver South. After being re-elected, Ujjal served as the Official Opposition Critic for National Defence from February 2006 to January 2007 and the critic for Foreign Affairs from January 2007 to October 2007. He is currently the critic for Public Safety.

Bruce Foster, Director, Victim Services Program Unit, Victim Services and Community Programs Division, Ministry of Public Services and Solicitor General
Bruce joined the Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division (VSCPD) on August 13, 2007 as the Director of the Victim Services Program Unit. Prior to joining VSCPD he worked at the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC (PGT) for the last 8 years. He was a manager in Services to Adults and started with the

PGT as a trust administrator in Estate and Personal Trusts. He was involved for many years in the community legal aid office in Langley and as part of the provincial association of community legal aid offices prior to the restructuring of the delivery of legal aid services. He has a law degree from the University of British Columbia and an undergraduate degree in Criminology from Simon Fraser University.

Stephen Hunt, Western Canada Director, United Steelworkers Union
Stephen Hunt has been Western Canada Director of the United Steelworkers Union since 2004. Steve has been involved in provincial and territorial activities for more than three decades. A proud miner and union member all his working life, Steve started as a member of the local union representing the workers at Utah Mines in Port Hardy, British Columbia in 1973. Steve has always been a passionate advocate for worker health and safety. Today, he sits as the only worker representative on the British Columbia Workers Compensation Board's Board of Directors. Over the years, as a Steelworker Humanity Fund director and a health and safety specialist, Steve has traveled to Peru and Chile to assist miners to develop strategies to prevent silicosis and promote mine safety. Steve has earned a reputation as a health and safety expert and was called on to provide expert testimony into the Westray Mine explosion. His evidence, advocacy and expertise were relied on in the Steelworkers' campaign to have the Criminal Code of Canada amended to provide for criminal prosecution of corporate directors and officers for workplace deaths. He has also served on numerous national and international bodies examining and advancing workplace safety and health.

Doug Lepard, Deputy Chief Constable, Vancouver Police
DCC LePard began his career with the VPD in 1981. He has worked at various ranks in Patrol, the Strike Force, the Crowd Control Unit, the Communications Centre, the Planning and Research Section, the Sexual Offence Squad, the Home Invasion Task Force, and the Domestic Violence & Criminal Harassment (DVACH) Units. He was instrumental in creating these last two units in 1996, implementing the first investigative unit in Canada devoted to investigating stalking offences, and a complementary unit comprised of police investigators and community counsellors to address domestic violence cases. This innovative model is a partnership with Family Services of Greater Vancouver. DCC LePard's most recent assignment was as the Inspector in charge of the City-wide Enforcement Team. DCC LePard is an expert in the investigation of stalking offences, and has instructed police officers throughout BC in related investigative techniques. In addition, he has presented internationally on this subject. DCC LePard is the Chair of the VPD Safety and Health Committee. He is the recipient of eight VPD commendations, a Lieutenant Governor's Merit Award for bravery in 1998, and an Attorney General's award for contributions to victim services in 1999.

Wally Oppal, Liberal MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview and Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism

Wally was appointed Attorney General on June 16, 2005. He was elected in the riding of Vancouver-Fraserview in the 2005 provincial general election. Wally has dedicated his entire working life to improving social justice and community safety. He was born in the Vancouver-Fraserview neighborhood, attended law school at UBC, and then returned home to practice law for 14 years. Wally was appointed to the County Court of British Columbia in 1981 and to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 1985. In 2003, he was appointed to the British Columbia Court of Appeal. Wally's passion for the Canadian legal system is exemplified by the various positions he has held throughout the years: permanent group leader of the Advocacy course of the Continuing Legal Education Society; president, Law Courts Education Society of British Columbia; former Director, Family Services of Greater Vancouver; member, 1993 Ad Hoc Advisory Committee for a National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention; Director, B.C. Coalition for Safer Communities; member, Supreme Court National Criminal Law Programme Judges Criminal Law Committee; author of report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Policing in British Columbia.

Tracy Porteous, Executive Director, BCASVACP

Tracy Porteous, RCC first became involved in the anti-violence field in 1982 as a crisis line volunteer, then as staff at the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Center. During her 13 years with that Centre, she did counselling, advocacy, fundraising, program development, volunteer coordination, resource development and community and professional education related to responding to women and girls who have been sexually assaulted. In 1995 Tracy left the Centre to become Executive Director of the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs. Tracy is a member of the Federal Department of Justice, National Victim Policy Centre Advisory Committee and a member of the Provincial Integrated Recovery Council of BC and has been working with related ministries and organizations for many years to increase awareness of the needs of women and children related to violence.

David Ravvin, Board Member, Ending Relationship Abuse Society

David Ravvin, MA, is the developer and co-facilitator of Touchstone Family Association's Men, Anger and the Family support group. He is currently developing a second group for Touchstone: Men, Relationships and the Self. He has co-facilitated men's addiction recovery groups, men's probation and parole workshops, and other domestic violence groups.

Jim Sinclair, President, BC Federation of Labour

Jim Sinclair has been president of the BC Federation of Labour since 1999. Jim has been an articulate and active leader in the labour movement for more than 25 years. Jim was elected 2nd Vice-President of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union/Canadian Auto Workers' Union (UFAWU/CAW) from 1991 to 1999. As a staff member for the UFAWU since 1982, he was the lead negotiator

in industry-wide negotiations with major fish processing companies. He has been active in the labour movement in BC through his participation on the B.C. Federation of Labour Executive Council and committees since the mid-seventies. Jim currently sits on the Board of Directors for Working Enterprises Ltd. and the Working Opportunity Fund.