



BC Association of
Specialized Victim Assistance
& Counselling Programs

November 19, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On the eve of the annual International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women (November 25) and just prior to a Court Of Appeal hearing scheduled for Vancouver Supreme Court December 1-3, 2008 related to the Lee Coroner's Inquest, where in 2007 Peter Lee murdered his wife Sunny, her son Christian and Sunny's parents in a brutal domestic violence slaying in Oak Bay BC, specialists in the area of response to domestic and sexual violence across BC will meet for 2 days beginning tomorrow, November 20th and 21st, 2008. The meeting is a provincial training conference where some of the world's experts on risk assessment and safety planning in area of domestic violence will be in attendance giving keynotes and workshops, sharing what they know in order to assist those in BC still reeling from a number of high profile murders of women and children as a result of domestic violence.

Close to 350 of BC's experts will hear from keynotes: Dr Jacquelyn Campbell, an international expert on and developer of a major Domestic Violence Danger Assessment Tool; Raven Bowen and Susan Davis will speak about safety for women in the sex trade; Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, BC's Representative for Children and Youth will speak about children and violence in the home; Dr Stephen Hart, internationally recognized expert in the management of domestic violence offenders. Participants will also have access to 15 3 hour works shops.

"Risk assessment and safety planning, while never an exact, predictable science, is key to increasing the safety of women and their children from domestic violence", says Executive Director, Tracy Porteous of the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, organizer of the forum.

In 2004, 653,000 women in Canada reported either physical or sexual assault by a spouse in the previous 5 years. In BC, 10,273 incidents of spousal assault were reported to police in 2005, a 9% increase from the number reported in 2004. During the last fiscal year in our province, spouse assault accounted for more requests for victim services than any other offence.

Media is welcome to attend all or part of the morning keynote sessions each day. For a full look at the program go to www.endingviolence.org

Event Site: Best Western Richmond Hotel and Convention Centre
7551 Westminster Highway

Plenary Times: 8:30 am – 1:15 pm each day

Contacts: Tracy Porteous
Executive Director
604 761-1225

Gisela Ruebsaat
Legal Issues Analyst
250 413-7056