



Print

Close

B.C. Lions tackling violence against women

Phylcia Torrevillas
08 July 2011 03:32

The B.C. Lions are urging people to speak up and break the silence on violence against women.

The Ending Violence Association of B.C. has teamed up with the Canadian Football League franchise for the Be More Than a Bystander project — launched Thursday at the B.C. Lions training facility in Surrey — which aims to provide people with tools and ideas about how to speak up and not allow abuse of women to continue.

An emotional Wally Buono, GM and head coach of the Lions, choked back tears when he alluded to an incident in his own home.

"Fortunately for me, I was old enough that I could deal with it on my mother's behalf," he said. "I emphasized to the players, these ladies who are being abused, they are our daughters and our mothers."

Lions players will conduct workshops for students in Grades 8 to 12 and coaches of amateur football teams over the next two years about healthy relationships and how to be more than a bystander.

"Being able to get into schools will be hugely beneficial (for students) to see us, people who play a violent sport for a living, speaking out against violence in everyday life," said quarterback Travis Lulay. "It'll be a special thing."

Metro Vancouver



PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/for METRO
B.C. Lions head coach Wally Buono gets emotional Thursday at the team's training facility in Surrey during the launch of a new campaign to fight violence against women.