

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: A SERIES ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN RENFREW COUNTY - 2 of 3

Ending Violence Against Women (EVA)-Renfrew County is a committee that focuses on prevention, education, systemic change, and service provision related to violence against women. More than half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16. Approximately every 6 days,

a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner. On any given night in Canada, 3,200 women and their 3000 children sleep in shelters because it isn't safe at home. Yet we often turn a blind eye to the violence next door, thinking it isn't any of our business. When the public or media do pay attention to intimate partner violence, it is after the fact, when it is already too late to save someone from injury or even death. We must start

making it our business. This 3 part series on IPV aims to increase understanding in our communities, with the hope of preventing harm and increasing support to our neighbours, friends and family members who are experiencing abuse.

Follow us on Facebook @EVA-End Violence Against Women-Renfrew County and If you wish to get involved do not hesitate to reach us at evarenfrewcounty@gmail.com.

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN RURAL AREAS?

- Community and extended family ties that deny the truth of violence against women ... "you have made your bed..."
- Lack of privacy = everyone knows everyone's business = very hard to trust anyone to talk about what's really happening.
- Traditional gender roles can "normalize" abuse. Abusers are not held accountable for their behaviour.
- No public transportation = cannot physically get away or reach out for confidential support.
- Low employment = hard to leave abusive relationship because of poverty.
- Women in farming lose income and cannot leave animals behind.
- Lack of affordable childcare.
- Abusers often have access to weapons & firearms that are used as threats.
- Isolation because of long distances to get help. Further information: <http://www.chatelaine.com/living/what-the-renfrew-county-murders-tell-us-about-rural-violence/>.

Isolation
Isolation is a condition that allows woman abuse to happen... It is also a result of woman abuse that becomes deeper and more profound as the abuse escalates

Traps for Women - Why Women Stay?

Canadian Women's Foundation studies shows 67 per cent of us know a woman who has been abused. Intimate partner violence is an epidemic in our country because it is rarely as easy as "just leaving."

You may have heard that it's complicated and that the valid reasons why women stay could be listed on hundreds of pages. That couldn't be more true. We need to begin to understand, support and believe victims -- not blame them.

So why doesn't she just leave?

- She may stay because she fears for her life or the life of her children because he's threatened what he might do if she dares try to leave.
- She may stay because she believes she has nowhere to go. She might not know how the community can support her or the local shelter might be full.
- She may stay because everyone thinks her abuser is a "good guy" and she feels ashamed and embarrassed and is sure she'll be judged and not believed if she speaks out about the abuse.
- She may stay because she's willing to sacrifice her own safety for the well-being of her children so they won't have to grow up in poverty or without a father.
- She may stay because her family, friends or community have told her they won't support her and that they believe divorce is never a viable option.
- She may stay because of her immigration status or because her first language isn't English to be able to reach out for help.
- She may stay because she has a disability and is dependent on him for daily care.
- She may stay because she grew up in a family where abuse was normal, making it hard to recognize when a relationship is unhealthy.
- She may stay because she loves him and he seems to regret the violence. She may want

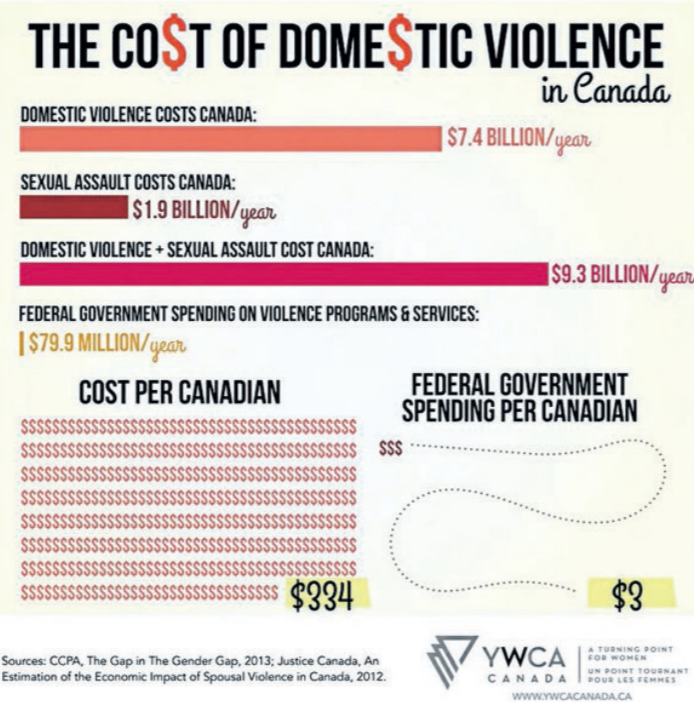
to try to make the relationship work and help him to change.

- She may stay because she blames herself. She's been told it's her fault and that she deserves to be abused.

It's time to stop the victim-blaming. Instead of asking why she doesn't just leave, we should be asking different questions when we read those headlines. We should be asking, "Why is he abusive?" or "How can we break the cycle of violence?" or "How can I support her to be safe?" We also need to ask ourselves why these questions seem so scary. I believe it's because they - finally - upset the status quo, and shine the light on the real problem.

There are good reasons why women stay. But there is no reason we can't work together to stop the violence, for good.

Source: <http://www.canadianwomen.org/blog/why-women-stay-abusive-relationships>



DISPELLING THE MYTHS!

Myths and facts about Violence against women :

MYTH : Domestic violence is usually an isolated incident.

FACT : Violence is a pattern of behaviour that exists in some relationships and gets worse and more frequent over time.

MYTH : The problem is not really violence against "women." Women are just as violent as men.

FACT : In about 90% of domestic assaults, the man is the perpetrator. This may be uncomfortable but it is true.

Jane's Story

Police responded to a 911 call from a remote rural area. It took approximately 45 minutes to arrive at the location of the call. The telephone was located outside on a telephone pole at the end of a very long laneway in a wooded acreage. A man was standing at the location of the phone and when questioned by police he indicated that he had been threatened by his girlfriend who had been drinking heavily, but that he now believed she would not cause him any harm and he apologized for the call. When police persisted in their request to speak with the woman, the man indicated he did not know where she was at the moment. Police followed the laneway to a remote cabin and discovered the woman badly beaten. It took her some time to escape to use the phone as she waited until he was intoxicated and sleeping. However he awoke and discovered her at the telephone. At the point of discovery she was unwilling to provide any statement to police. Police however were able to take her to the hospital and then to a shelter.

L'Histoire de Jane

La police répond à un appel 911 d'une région rurale éloignée. Il leur prendra environ 45 minutes afin de se rendre à l'endroit de l'appel. Le téléphone se trouve dehors, accroché à un poteau de téléphone, au bout d'un long chemin dans un boisé. Un homme est tout près de cet endroit. Il s'excuse de son appel et indique aux policiers qu'il a reçu des menaces de sa conjointe fortement intoxiquée mais qu'à ce moment-ci il ne pense plus qu'elle représente un danger. Quand les policiers insistent pour parler à la dame, l'homme répond ne pas savoir où elle se trouve. Les policiers suivent le chemin et retrouvent la dame sévèrement battue dans une cabine. Il lui a pris du temps pour s'échapper et utiliser le téléphone puisqu'elle attendait que son conjoint soit intoxiqué et endormi. Cependant, il s'est réveillé et a découvert qu'elle avait fait un appel. À ce moment-ci, la dame ne veut pas donner de déclaration à la police. Les policiers l'ont amené à l'hôpital et ensuite à une maison d'hébergement.



Vous n'êtes pas seule... de l'aide en français est disponible

Si vous êtes en danger immédiat, appelez le 911.

Si vous n'êtes pas en danger immédiat, mais que vous avez besoin d'aide, il existe des ressources dans votre collectivité.

MISE EN GARDE: C'est au moment où la relation de couple prend fin que le risque de violence mortelle est le plus élevé pour les femmes victimes de violence conjugale.

Si vous êtes en danger immédiat, appelez la police. Pour obtenir de l'aide ou établir un plan de sécurité, communiquez (en Ontario) avec:

La ligne francophone de soutien Fem'aide au **1-877-336-2433** **ATS: 1-866-860-7082**.

* Une intervenante francophone est disponible dans le Comté de Renfrew pour accompagner les femmes dans le besoin, elle peut être rejointe au **613-585-3414**.

RESSOURCES UTILES partout en Ontario: www.undroitdefamille.ca

Ligne de soutien pour femmes touchées par la violence: Fem'aide www.femaide.ca • 1-877-336-2433 **ATS: 1 866 860-7082**

Jeunesse, J'écoute www.jeunessejecoute.ca • 1-800-668-6868

Here is where you can get help

Call 911 in an emergency

Deep River Police	613.584.3500
Military Police	613.687.5511 ext. 5444
Ontario Provincial Police	1.888.310.1122
Assaulted Women's Helpline	6131.866.863.0511
Bernadette McCann House for Women Inc.	1.800.267.4930 / 613.732.3131 • www.wsssbmh.org
Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County	613.735.6866 / 1.800.267.5878 • www.fcsrenfrew.ca
Ligne de soutien pour femmes victimes de violence	1.877.FEMAIDE (336.2433) • ATS 1.866.860.7082
Renfrew Victoria Hospital Regional Assault Care Program	1.800.363.7222 / 613.432.4851 ext. 224 www.renfrewhosp.com
Victim Services of Renfrew County Inc.	1.877.568.5730 / 613.649.2852 www.victimservicesrenfrewcounty.ca
Victim Witness Assistance Program	1.866.439.5734 / 613.732.2035 • TTY 1.866.611.5233
Women's Sexual Assault Centre	1.800.663.3060 • www.wsac.ca

