



Abbotsford Police Department

2838 Justice Way, Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 3P5 Phone (604)859-5225 Fax (604)859-2527

Bob Rich
Chief Constable

"Protecting with Pride"

NEWS RELEASE

APD NEWS RELEASE:

APD FILE #

RELEASE # 1

DATE OF RELEASE: December 6, 2011

Incident: Abbotsford Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit

Abbotsford – December 6, 2011.

The Abbotsford Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) was founded in 2009. The unit is comprised of one Major Crime detective and one civilian community Victim Services worker. Together, this team investigates and manages all of the highest risk domestic violence incidents that occur in the City of Abbotsford. The primary objective of the DVU is to ensure victim safety in the face of domestic violence. This is achieved by developing and maintaining a long-lasting relationship with the victims of domestic violence and helping them secure the necessary resources and contacts in order to ensure their safety. In addition, the DVU helps break down the barriers that victims commonly feel when it comes to court attendances and meetings with Crown Counsel by attending all of those meetings with the victims and being present in the courtroom as a show of support if and when a victim is required to testify against their abuser. The DVU maintains a case load that represents about 10% of all domestic violence offences within the city in any given year.

The DVU assumes all the highest-risk cases of domestic violence. While the APD recognizes that all forms of domestic violence are serious, the DVU targets those incidents that may pose the greatest risk of continued violence to the victim. In order to be considered a high-risk case, the incident may involve one or more of the following attributes: the offender has committed acts of domestic violence in the past, the victim has been abused in a domestic relationship previously, children are witnesses to physical violence between parents, the victim comes from a marginalized background, the victim lacks family or community support, the victim experiences language or cultural barriers, or the level of violence inflicted upon the victim caused bodily harm.

The APD recognized the need for the creation of the DVU when it was identified that charges against offenders were dropped in a concerning percentage of incidents. This resulted in abusers not being held accountable for their actions. On many occasions the reason for the dropped charges was the fact that the victims of the offences would fail to attend court

***Our Mission:**
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.*

For obvious reasons then, court attendance has become one of the measurements of DVU success. In 2010 and year to date 2011 the DVU managed to achieve a 100% success rate in ensuring that the victims of domestic violence (in all cases investigated by the DVU) attended court. Another important measure is the conviction rate of the offenders via the court process. The conviction rates in 2010 and year to date 2011 are 95% and 97%, respectively.

Today is Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women. The Abbotsford Police Department is working diligently to provide support to victims of violence and to hold offenders responsible for their crimes. Our Domestic Violence Unit is a very important component in our efforts.

| |
|---|
| <p>Cst. Ian MacDonald: Phone: (604) 864-4721 Abbotsford Police Public Information Officer Cell: (604) 835-6070 2838 Justice Way, Abbotsford, BC V2T 3P5 Fax: (604) 859-2527 E-mail: imacdonald@abbypd.ca</p> |
|---|

***Our Mission:
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.***