



## **For Immediate Release: “JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN”**

### **#VAWHURTSUSALL**

Prevalence and severity of violence against women and children has been well documented in Canada. For over 30 years the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses, our Members and community allies, such as Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres and more recently, Building A Bigger Wave have been working to address violence against women, and support survivors in local communities. We have seen violence permeate our streets, homes, workplaces, communities and institutions with tremendous social and economic impacts. Here are the Canadian statistics that outline how violence is experienced by women and girls:

- **Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (2014)** Reviewed domestic violence related homicides between 2002-2010 and found 80% of domestic violence homicide victims were female.<sup>i</sup>
- **Statistics Canada (2011)** Aboriginal Women in Canada were found to be 3 times more likely than Non-Aboriginal Women to report being a victim for a violent crime, regardless of whether the perpetrator was a spouse or stranger.<sup>ii</sup>
- **Centre for Addiction & Mental Health (2008)** Young women from marginalized racial, sexual and socioeconomic groups are more vulnerable to being targeted for sexual harassment and sexual assault<sup>iii</sup>
- **Statistics Canada (2006)** Identify a 10 year period where police reports showed males were much more likely than females to be the perpetrators of spousal violence incidents coming to the attention of police and more likely to repeatedly abuse their spouse.<sup>iv</sup>
- **Statistics Canada(2006)** Indicates chronic abuse incidents as 97% by males versus 3% by females<sup>v</sup>
- **Statistics Canada (2006)** Report 86% of sexual offences reported to the police in the year 2004 were committed against females<sup>vi</sup>
- **Statistics Canada (2005)** Indicates women were three times more likely to fear for their life, and twice as likely to be the targets of more than 10 violent episodes<sup>vii</sup>
- **Statistics Canada** tell us that, overall, the prevalence of sexual violence experienced by males is not the same as that experienced by women and girls<sup>viii</sup>.

## **Ending Violence Against Women Benefits Everyone**

When we work towards ending violence against women, we create a culture that will end violence against everyone. To achieve this, strategies are required to address the complex culture of violence against women that are maintained by misogyny and colonialism.

OAITH congratulates the Ontario Government, under Premiere Kathleen Wynne's leadership, for taking the substantive steps required with the release of *It's Never Ok: An Action Plan To Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment*, the establishment of the *Violence Against Women Roundtable* and the new *Sexual Health Curriculum*. These steps support structural actions that are critical to addressing violence against women, particularly sexual violence. Directly addressing misogynistic structures, beliefs and values will benefit children, youth and adults across all genders and communities.

Addressing the profound and tremendous impact of violence against women requires multi-faceted approaches focused on prevention, awareness, support and responsive systems. Campaigns and legislation that are divisive work against positive change for any population impacted by violence. As OAITH enters our 25<sup>th</sup> year of documenting approximately 600 women and children killed by their male intimate partners, as documented by the media, we are facing a very real problem in Ontario.

**Charlene Catchpole,**



**Chair, Board of Director's**

Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses

For Further Inquiries please Contact [communications@oath.ca](mailto:communications@oath.ca)

**VAW Sector Supporters:**

Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres

Building A Bigger Wave Network

**Join The Conversations On Violence Against Women!**

#VAWHurtsUsAll #WrappedInCourage #MenLetsTalk #ENDVAW #WhoWillYouHelp

#Ibelieveher #RapeCulture #DrawTheLine #BeenRapedNeverReported

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<sup>i</sup> Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (2014). Annual Report. Retrieved from:  
<http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/stellent/groups/public/@mcscs/@www/@com/documents/webasset/ec165340.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Shannon Brennan, Violent Victimization of Aboriginal Women in the Canadian Provinces. (Statistics Canada, 2011. Retrieved from:  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2011001/article/11439-eng.htm>

<sup>iii</sup> Wolfe and Chiodo, CAMH, 2008, p. 3.

<sup>iv</sup> Neighbours, Friends and Families: Community Action Kit to Prevent Woman Abuse. Online:  
<http://learningtoendabuse.ca/neighboursfriendsandfamilies/sites/neighboursfriendsandfamilies/files/images/downloads/FinalKit.pdf:21-22>

<sup>v</sup> Neighbours, Friends and Families: Community Action Kit to Prevent Woman Abuse. Online:  
<http://learningtoendabuse.ca/neighboursfriendsandfamilies/sites/neighboursfriendsandfamilies/files/images/downloads/FinalKit.pdf:21-22>

<sup>vi</sup> Statistics Canada. Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006

<sup>vii</sup> Neighbours, Friends and Families: Community Action Kit to Prevent Woman Abuse. Online:  
<http://learningtoendabuse.ca/neighboursfriendsandfamilies/sites/neighboursfriendsandfamilies/files/images/downloads/FinalKit.pdf:21-22>

<sup>viii</sup> Juristat Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. *Sexual Offenses in Canada*. 2004: 1