

# What Can You Do About Family Violence in Your Community

## AS AN INDIVIDUAL

- Ask your schools to do education about dating violence and all other forms of abuse
- Encourage schools to identify teachers/ counsellors that are available to discuss students' personal experiences with family violence
- Volunteer to assist schools/teachers develop a package of material that could be used as a tool after discussing family violence with students
- Ask schools to ensure that students with Internet access know about family violence resources on the Internet
- Encourage day care centres and schools to help children learn non violent ways of dealing with conflict
- Offer to help your local women's shelter as a volunteer, board member or fundraiser
- Put tear off sheets with resource names and numbers inside cubicles in washrooms in hospitals, hotels, restaurants, movie theatres and on community bulletin boards
- Ask the local grocery stores or department stores to put family violence resource phone numbers on the handles of shopping carts
- Develop a community resource listing of services available in your community for victims and abusers
- Organize training sessions on family violence for other colleagues in your community Work with local churches and faith communities to provide information about family violence
- Ask barber shops and beauty shops to display family violence information in "eye friendly" locations

- Alert local animal shelters about the relationship between abuse of animals and family violence
- Ask your local public library to carry periodicals and books on the topic of family violence
- Encourage your neighbourhood/co-op to adopt a Violence Free Policy
- If you are abused, make yourself aware of family violence resources in your community

## AS A SERVICE PROVIDER

- Always ask clients about violence
- Ask individuals about family violence at least once without their partner or other family members present
- Consider the possibility of family violence in case conferences
- Display information about family violence prominently in your office
- Listen patiently to those involved in family violence
- Recognize that abused persons are experts about their own circumstances
- Put your service in your local service directory and the Internet as a resource for survivors and/or abusers
- Organize an Inter-Agency committee to address family violence in your community
- Ask firefighters, paramedics and emergency room staff to watch for signs of family violence
- Work with health centres and clinics to educate parents and support programs that address healthy child development and parenting



## DURING NOVEMBER, FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH IN ALBERTA

- Encourage all businesses on one street or part of town to work together to display family violence prevention material for a week during November
- Encourage your town or city Council to formally proclaim Family Violence Prevention Month
- Assist your town or city council to plan activities or events for Family Violence Prevention Month
- Work with schools, hospitals, police and nursing homes etc. to focus on family violence prevention
- Sponsor a family violence prevention Poster and Slogan Contest in schools. Plan a public forum on the topic of family violence
- Submit regular articles about family violence to your local newspaper
- Organize a display of articles, poems, short stories and artwork that focus on family violence
- Encourage all helping professions to participate in a trade fair and display information about their services
- Distribute a placemat highlighting events in your community during family violence month to be used in local restaurants
- Host a series of Brown Bag lunches featuring family violence prevention videos

