

Sexual Assault Awareness
Press Release Weyburn
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PATT LENOVER-ADAMS
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Envision Counselling and Support Centre will be using the week of April 2nd through April 8th to highlight 'Sexual Assault Awareness Week' in Saskatchewan. Sexual violence continues to be a major issue in our region and Envision wants to increase public understanding about it.

Patt Lenover-Adams, Executive Director states "Every day women, men, and children across Saskatchewan suffer the pain and trauma of sexual assault. From verbal harassment and intimidation to molestation and rape, this crime occurs far too often, goes unreported and leaves long lasting scars, both physically and emotionally." Envision's goal is to raise awareness, and to let victims know that they run a Sexual Assault Program. Envision continues to work on researching and distributing the most up to date information on this issue.

"Sexual violence is an issue we cannot ignore. An alarming statistic to note is that close to 80% of sexual assaults occur between people who know each other. Also, 62% of victims of assault involving forced sexual intercourse are physically injured in the attack" Lenover-Adams states.

These facts are deeply troubling, and yet, sexual violence affects all individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances. Alarming rates of sexual violence occur among young women who are attending college, and frequently alcohol or drugs are used to incapacitate the victim.

Anyone who has been a victim of sexual assault can reach out to Envision for counselling. Envision also has a 24-Hour Sexual Assault/Abuse Support Line that can help members of the community who have been touched by sexual abuse or family violence. The telephone number for Envision's 24-Hour Support line is: 1-800-214-7083. Lenover-Adams states, "Often times, it is not unusual for victims to wait 3 to 4 months to come for counselling. It is not uncommon for these individuals not to want counselling immediately after the incident."

Envision also provides counselling for Adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. An adult survivor is an individual who was sexually abused as a child. This abuse may have had long-term effects on the survivor's life. In most instances, the victim of the abuse never discussed the abuse with others while it was occurring. This individual is learning now, as an adult, how to deal with the effects of the abuse. Counselling can help survivors develop new strategies to empower themselves and help them move forward, and also to let them know that they are not to blame.

Lenover-Adams says, "As we continue to confront this crime, let us reaffirm this week our dedication to take action in our communities and stop abuse before it starts. Together as a community we can increase awareness about sexual violence, help victims in need, and start healing lives."

Envision will be hosting their annual W.A.V. (Walk Against Violence) on May 5, 2011. "This event will be a great way for the community to come together and raise awareness about all forms of abuse, as well as increase the support for those in need." Lenover-Adams states. Envision invites the entire community to attend their annual W.A.V. event. Activities will begin at 7:00 pm at the Grace United Church in Weyburn,SK.