

For Immediate Release  
Vancouver, November 2, 2006

### Call for Action to Eradicate Violence Against **All** Women

Vancouver, BC - Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre is saddened and shocked by recent acts of violence against Indo-Canadian women.

These acts of violence against Indo-Canadian women are deplorable. Regardless of race, culture, religion, socioeconomic status and education, women from all communities are being subjected to violence at an alarming rate.

At WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre in Vancouver, in 2005, we received over 1900 crisis calls from women who have been victims of male violence. WAVAW's front line worker Kamilla Singh says, "We must be aware that violence against women is a problem for women from all races, religions and cultures. Women who attempt to flee violent relationships have very few options. Community support systems such as women's centres, transition houses, and counseling programs are struggling to keep up with demand and women who do access these services are often told that there is a wait list or not any space available in the transition house or shelter. Women only access law and order services as a last resort."

Recent statistics from the Surrey RCMP show that since January of 2006, 961 cases of relationship violence involving a weapon were reported. In addition, 984 cases of relationship violence without a weapon were reported. The Vancouver Police Department reports that for the last year there were approximately 3700 incidences of intimate partner violence against women. Yet only 6% of all violence against women is ever reported to the police.

Irene Elhaimer, Manager of WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre asks "Why does the provincial government continue to deny requests for sufficient funding to community services that support women fleeing abuse?"

In a letter dated October 20, 2006 received from Minister Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services and Minister Responsible for Seniors' and Women's Issues, states that additional funds for Stopping The Violence programs, totaling \$1.9 million, "continue to have a positive effect on services for women and their children."

Women Against Violence Against Women will be attending the forum in Surrey to raise questions about how the Ministry of Community Services and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General will work together to sufficiently fund women's services and ensure that essential support services are available to all women in BC, on demand. How many women have been turned away from the services they need because supports were not available?

- 30-

Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre is available for further information and comments. Contact Monica Singh at (604) 255-6228 ext. 0 or Irene Elhaimer at extension #229.