

# ENDING VIOLENCE

Association of BC

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## THE ROLE OF ALLIES IN ANTI-VIOLENCE WORK

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In anti-violence work we act in solidarity with shared purposes and shoulder each other up to resist patriarchy and misogyny and create a society that is safer for everyone. Accountable men, including transgender men, work as allies alongside women anti-violence workers to address men's power and to transform a rape culture. But as "women" we are also required to act as allies to each other as we are not all in equal positions of power or risk in relation to this work. In activist cultures an ally is a person who belongs to a group which has particular privileges, and who works alongside people from groups that are oppressed in relation to that privilege. The hope is to create change and increase social justice in relation to this oppression.

Being an ally is not a fixed position, it is fluid, and based on the different domains of our identity and the access to power we hold in relation to that domain. This means that at times, I will be an ally to a person around one domain of power, but they may be an ally to me around a different part of our identities (Crenshaw, 1995). For example, I am required to act as an ally to a woman who identifies as queer because of my access to heterosexual privilege. In another moment, the same woman may be required to be an ally to me around issues of class background, or organizational position. Ally work is fluid, meaning that we need to attend to the power that is present, back each other up and be in solidarity with each other across the differences that divide us (Reynolds, 2010a).

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**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
EVA BC and CCWS staff were all on hand to share this extraordinary evening when EVA BC Executive Director Tracy Porteous received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth. See page 16.

### BE MORE THAN A BYSTANDER

BREAK THE SILENCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In BC every year, there are 60,000 physical or sexual assaults committed against women. Almost all of these assaults are committed by men.

**THE BC LIONS WANT YOU TO "SPEAK UP!"**



TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP VISIT  
[WWW.ENDINGVIOLENCE.ORG](http://WWW.ENDINGVIOLENCE.ORG)






**BE MORE THAN A BYSTANDER**

A large gathering was on hand when EVA BC's initiative to break the silence on violence against women was formally launched in July 2011 at the BC Lions training facility in Surrey. See page 12.

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