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CAMPAIGN HELPS PREVENT WOMAN ABUSE

Maggie's Resource Centre, recently launched a campaign in North Hastings to help neighbours, friends and families recognize signs of woman abuse and to know what actions to take.

"Domestic violence is every one's business," said Sandra Papatello, minister responsible for women's issues. "The 'Neighbours, Friends and Families Campaign' gives individuals the information they need to recognize the signs of woman abuse and know what to do to help."

The Neighbours, Friends and Families Campaign is part of a province-wide initiative developed in partnership with the Ontario Government, the Ontario Women's Directorate and the Expert Panel on Neighbours, Friends and Families, through the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children. Locally, the campaign is co-ordinated by Lindsay Jolly and Marsha Depotier.

"We all have a role to play in preventing woman abuse," said Depotier. "Through research by an expert panel, 15 warning signs and 23 risk factors have been identified to help those around the victim and the abuser understand what they are seeing and enable

them to intervene. Neighbours, friends and families have a crucial role to play in preventing woman abuse, and this campaign provides the tools to help when individuals know a woman is being abused."

Public service announcements, brochures, and wallet cards will be distributed as part of the campaign, and a Web site (www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.on.ca) also provides accessible information. The provincial government is investing in the campaign in Ontario to help individuals know what action to take when they recognize the signs of woman abuse, including information on speaking to abusive men.

"Having available resources is critical to ending woman abuse," said Jolly. "Making abuse unacceptable helps deter men from being abusive. Knowing that support is available helps women feel more confident about reaching out. Working together in our community to stand against woman abuse does make a significant difference."

If you would like any more information about the campaign, please call 613-332-3010, or e-mail lindsay.m.jolly@gmail.com or marsha@maggies@hotmail.com.

