

# Family Violence

## PREVENTION

Family Violence is everyone's business. Boys and men may wonder what family violence has to do with them if they are not directly impacted. Men have a unique and important role to play. Why? Because boys look to men to learn how to be men, and because men listen to other men.

Men, as well as women, can be abused by intimate partners. Both victims and perpetrators of gender-based violence can take responsibility to educate themselves on making healthy choices. They can explore the many services available to help change attitudes and behaviours to ensure better lifestyles for all household members.

Family violence directly affects boys when they grow up in homes where violence and abuse occur. Sometimes boys are openly abused, other times they are witnesses. Sometimes they are forced by a perpetrator to participate in the abuse of other family members.

Both men and women have worked hard to bring the important issue of family violence into public discussion. Men often support these efforts quietly and behind the scenes. May feel it is now time for boys and men to be actively and openly involved in preventing family violence. Fathers, brothers, sons, uncles, grandfathers, grandsons, male friends, neighbours and colleagues of abused women can help by educating boys and men within their circles of influence.