

## **SHELTER FROM THE STORM RADIO-THON GIVES VOICE TO SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**Kelowna, BC. May 5, 2010** – Cristi was a young teen when she married her then husband. He was an alcoholic, and she spent years in and out of local shelters and hospitals before she finally decided to leave for good.

“The doctor looked at me and said ‘Next time, he will kill you’, and I knew he was right,” she says.

On Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>, Cristi will share her experience of domestic violence during Q103.1’s Shelter from the Storm radio-thon. Q103.1 is one of nine radio stations broadcasting radio-thons in support of Shelter from the Storm, the Canadian Women’s Foundation’s national fundraising campaign to end violence against women.

The radio-thon will broadcast live on Q103.1 from 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Survivors of abuse, representatives from local shelters and other experts on the issue will be taking part to raise awareness and encourage listeners to call in (250-868-1031) and donate.

“Domestic violence is in every community, but often hidden behind closed doors as a result of fear or shame,” said Beverley Wybrow, President and CEO of the Canadian Women’s Foundation. “The Shelter from the Storm radio-thon is giving voice to women who have been silenced. And in breaking the silence we can also break the cycle of abuse.”

“The shelter was very supportive,” says Cristi, who left her home with her two young children. “There was always someone there to talk to during the day or at night.”

Cristi credits the programs at the shelter for helping her rebuild her life to where it is today.

Shelter from the Storm is the Canadian Women’s Foundation’s annual fundraising campaign dedicated to ending violence against women, and Canada’s largest national campaign on the issue. Funds raised will support more than 400 shelters for abused women and their children across Canada (including the Kelowna Women’s Shelter) and community violence prevention programs that are breaking the cycle of abuse. The campaign runs from April 12<sup>th</sup> until May 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Canadian Women’s Foundation is Canada’s only national public foundation dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls. The foundation researches, shares and funds the best approaches to ending violence against women, moving low-income women out of poverty, and empowering girls with confidence, courage and critical thinking skills.

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