



Annual violence awareness event planned for October

Published Thursday August 18th, 2011

Fourth annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes campaign launched

A11 by jordan parker
Times & transcript staff

You can't understand a person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes. That's the basic premise behind the Investors Group Walk a Mile In Her Shoes campaign.

The fundraiser will see groups of men walk in downtown Moncton in high heels in order to raise the awareness of sexual violence against women. It is funded by the Coalition Against Abuse in Relationships.

A press conference yesterday at the Crowne Plaza looked to spread awareness about the fourth annual event, and provide some incentive to get involved.

The group unveiled a new promotional video, but the main event was a speech from a survivor of violence.

Leanne Taylor stood up and shared her struggles with the crowd and shared her heroic story.

"People often tell me I don't look abused ... I don't see a victim when I look in the mirror. I'm a victim because of what someone else did. And you can look at someone face to face and never know what they've gone through," said Taylor.

"I met him when I was in my late 20s, and I never guessed he was capable of violence. He burned with anger when I made plans without him, but I called it love," she said.

"I used to say he was simply passionate. But that's the way we're conditioned."

Taylor got out of the abusive relationship, and got her kids to safety.

She has been out of that situation for four years, and wants others in these circumstances to find help as well.

"I'm here to share my story and to raise an issue that affects us all."

CBC reporter Dave MacDonald will serve as an honorary chair this year, and couldn't be happier.

"I'm the first journalist to do this. In our profession, we're told to stay away and be detached. But it was a no-brainer for me to be involved in this," he said.

"Start practising walking in your heels, boys."

The march will take place at noon on Oct. 21, starting at the Crowne Plaza for registration. Men are encouraged to walk in women's shoes, and a minimum \$100 sponsorship is being asked.

Please **Log In** or **Register FREE**

You are currently not logged into this site. Please [log in](#) or [register](#) for a **FREE ONE Account**.

Logged in visitors may comment on articles, enter contests, manage home delivery holds and much more online. Your **ONE Account** grants you access to features and content across the entire CanadaEast Network of sites.