



**London, Ontario –**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - February 5, 2024**

**MEMBERS OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ADVOCATE CASE REVIEW PROGRAM RESPONDS TO RECENT CHARGES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN HOCKEY CANADA INVESTIGATION**

Anova and the London Abused Women's Centre, members of The Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Program, which is comprised of community partners committed to the principles of justice and fairness, is grateful that a re-opening of the investigation into the 2018 sexual assault involving Hockey Canada players, has resulted in charges.

Since 2018, in partnership with the London Police Services, the Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Program has reviewed hundreds of unfounded sexual assault investigations.

While we are disappointed that this investigation was not completed fully when it was first reported by the survivor, we are satisfied that a re-opening of the investigation has led to charges being filed.

We know the reality of reporting sexual assault in Canada- it is rare for survivors to step forward. The fact that this survivor, in a case where there is such public interest has spoken up, should be a testament to those who advocate for change in our justice system.

As a community, it is crucial that we unite in support for all survivors of sexual assault. We encourage everyone to be mindful of their words and actions, avoiding speculation or discussions that may inadvertently compromise the survivor's privacy and/or wellbeing. By fostering an environment of empathy and understanding, we can work towards eradicating sexual assault and providing a safer space for those who have experienced it.

As this process moves forward, we would remind everyone that there is a survivor involved who did not ask to be put in this situation.

We urge our community, and those who hold positions of power and influence, to think about how you speak about, and comment on this case, and your belief and support of survivors, as other survivors in our community and your life are listening.

We stand alongside all survivors of sexual violence and continue to dedicate ourselves to ensuring that systems meant to hold perpetrators accountable do so in a way that does not scare survivors from reaching out or speaking their truth. Instead, we work towards a world where accountability for those who perpetrate sexual violence and support to survivors is prioritized.

Jennifer Dunn  
Executive Director  
London Abused Women's Centre

Jessie Rodger  
Executive Director  
Anova

**About the Victim Advocate Case Review Program:**

*The mandate of the Victim Advocate Case Review Program is:*

*“to ensure ‘best practice’ responses to sexual assault reports involving adult complainants and suspects; improve the effectiveness of the investigative process; assist with the apprehension of offenders; provide the proper level of service and respect to sexual assault complainants and enhance their trust in the investigative process; promote open communication and cooperation between the LPS and advocate agencies; and improve the transparency of LPS sexual assault investigations.”*

*The process involves review with follow up questions or clarification. Observations and recommendations are outlined along with any necessary recommendations or action items related to the investigation.*

**Support for Survivors of Sexual Violence:**

**London Abused Women’s Centre:** 519-432-2204

**Anova’s 24 Hour Crisis and Support Line:** 519-642-3000

**Western University:**

**Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager:** 519 661-3568 or [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca)

**Fanshawe College Counselling and Accessibility Services Department:**  
519-452-4282 or [counselling@fanshawec.ca](mailto:counselling@fanshawec.ca)

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