

CFL seeks to combat violence against women with new league initiative

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Players and employees of the CFL will undergo yearly mandatory training on violence against women as part of a new league initiative.

The CFL unveiled its policy on violence against women in Vancouver on Thursday, with an emphasis on preventing violence from occurring in the first place and acting quickly when it does happen.

"It's clear that the CFL condemns violence against women in all of its forms — domestic violence, sexual assault, verbal abuse and the disrespectful and damaging attitudes that can form the foundation of violence itself," CFL commissioner Jeffrey Orridge said on a conference call. "We all need to do our part to combat it."

Orridge said the league has the authority to impose sanctions on players or employees who violate the new league policy but he did not elaborate on the exact nature of the punishments, saying they will happen on a case-by-case basis.

The policy was developed in partnership with the Ending Violence Association of Canada, and Orridge said the league consulted extensively with experts in the field of responding to violence against women.

"This policy is acknowledging that violence against women is happening at an epidemic level across our country," said Tracy Porteous, executive director of the Ending Violence Association of B.C. and chair of the Ending Violence Association of Canada. "This policy is saying this violence must stop and that men in businesses have a huge role to play in preventing sexual and domestic violence."

As part of the policy, the league said it will endorse and participate in efforts at the community level to increase awareness of violence against women "throughout society, and in particular among Canadian youth."

"We understand the power of sport and the influence of people involved in sports — whether they be the athletes or even the coaches — that kids look up to," Orridge said.

"Sport has the power to change lives and to change societal norms," he added.

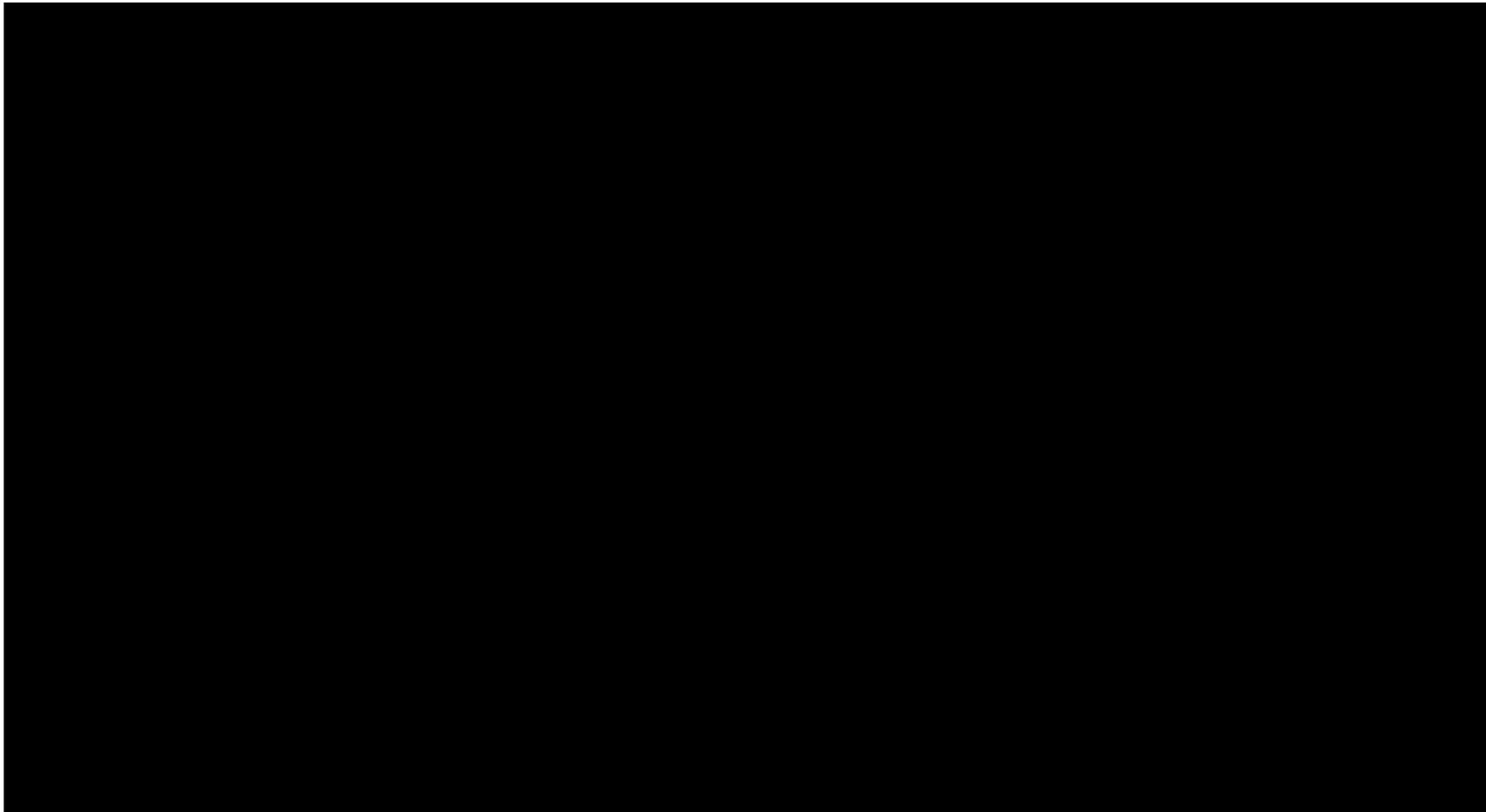
Steven Sabados thanks public, asks for privacy after death of Chris Hyndman

BY THE CANADIAN PRESS ([HTTP://WWW.CITYNEWS.CA/AUTHOR/THE-CANADIAN-PRESS/](http://www.citynews.ca/author/the-canadian-press/))

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Steven Sabados has issued a statement expressing his “deepest gratitude” for the public’s support after the death of his husband, Chris Hyndman.

Hyndman, who starred alongside Sabados on the daily CBC-TV show “Steven and Chris,” died earlier this week at age 49.

In a statement, Sabados wrote about the 27 years the pair spent together.

He wrote that Hyndman’s family and friends’ “hearts are broken,” but that they found comfort knowing that his spirit endures.

Sabados concluded by asking for privacy.

CBC reported Tuesday that Hyndman was found without vital signs in an alleyway just east of Toronto’s downtown core.

Police have not identified a cause of death but have suggested that there is no criminal investigation underway.

“From the moment I met Christopher, we went forward in life, side by side and shoulder to shoulder,” Sabados wrote.

“He was my best friend, my confidante, my partner, my one love.

“Over 27 years, we built a beautiful life together; always remembered, always cherished. As we find our way through this difficult time, we are asking for privacy.

“Thank you for your understanding.”

Hyndman’s mother, Glenda Hyndman, says she believes her only child fell to his death while sleepwalking on the terrace of his penthouse apartment that he shared with Sabados.

“Christopher was a sleepwalker, and he did that a lot. He even ate in his sleep,” Glenda Hyndman told the *Toronto Star* in a telephone interview from Moose Jaw, Sask., earlier this week.

“He was the most incredible human being and best son you could ever have. I think his light was so bright it just ... it just burned out.”

Sleep researchers say there have been documented cases in which sleepwalkers engage in very complex activities and wind up inflicting harm on themselves or others. However, they say those cases make up the extreme minority of the situations they encounter.