

- [Activities](#)
- [Top 5](#)
- [Travel Shots](#)
- [Advisories](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Driving](#)
 - [Home](#)
 - [News](#)
 - [Reviews](#)
 - [Kijiji Autos Classifieds](#)
- [Homes](#)
 - [For Sale/Rent](#)
 - [Real Estate & Mortgages](#)
 - [Decorating & Renovating](#)
 - [Gardening](#)
 - [Virtual Tours](#)
 - [You're Home Magazine](#)
 - [Saturday Homes](#)
 - [Mike Holmes](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
 - [Obituaries](#)
 - [Announcements](#)
 - [Vehicles](#)
 - [Real Estate](#)
 - [Rentals](#)
 - [Jobs](#)
 - [Pets](#)
 - [For Sale](#)
 - [Shopping](#)
 - [Place an Ad](#)
 - [FlyerCity](#)

Don't miss:

- [Gallery: Leader-Post's pictures of the week](#)
- [Gormley: Keyboard lynch mobs](#)
- [Vanstone: Rookie Riders QB](#)
- [Taste Regina](#)
- [Editorials: Our Say!](#)
- [QC](#)

»

Organizations, Riders praise CFL anti-violence policy

By Natascia Lypny, Leader-Post August 7, 2015



- [Story](#)
- [Photos \(1 \)](#)



Saskatchewan Roughriders vice-president of business development and marketing, Gregg Sauter, (L) praised the CFL's new violence against women policy. (DON HEALY/Regina, Leader-Post)

Photograph by: Don Healy , Regina Leader-Post

REGINA — Saskatchewan organizations are praising a new CFL policy on violence against women, hoping it can impact behaviour within the league and those who look up to football players.

"I'm impressed with the amount of thought that has gone into this. I was not expecting anything with as much clarity," said Debbie House, the Regina Sexual Assault Centre's administrator.

The document is only three pages long, but Crystal Giesbrecht, director of member programs and services for the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan, called it "comprehensive."

"I think it's good that the CFL is taking leadership on the issue of violence against women by putting the policy in place," she said.

House and Giesbrecht praised the policy for focusing not only on reacting to abuse, but also on education around respecting women and tackling harmful attitudes.

Giesbrecht did note, "There is a lot of flexibility in the policy. ... So I do hope to see sanctions imposed that are appropriate for the violence committed."

When it comes to the home team in Saskatchewan, House said, "I just hope the Riders recognize what domestic violence and sexualized violence is, and that if it happens in their club that they stand up and say, 'You're a valuable member of our team, but we have a policy here and we're going to follow it.'"

The Saskatchewan Roughriders are welcoming the policy with open arms.

"We're thrilled that the CFL has done this broadly," said Riders vice-president of business development and marketing Gregg Sauter. "It provides consistency in terms of messaging across the whole league. And it's one loud voice that violence against women is just absolutely not tolerated."

Sauter said the media has tended to focus on player discipline in cases of alleged violence by professional athletes.

"You need to have those rules and you need to have ramifications, but what's important to us and what we're really focused on as a club and as a league is prevention and education," he said.

The Riders partner with the Red Cross to deliver an anti-bullying program in schools. Sauter said the program, which touches on respect of women, will continue to be the club's focus.

House hopes the Riders do a bit more than that.

The sexual assault centre is in the preliminary stages of developing a Be More Than a Bystander campaign based off a partnership between the Ending Violence Association of B.C. and the B.C. Lions. It sees football players use their public profile to educate people about violence against women and encourage men to speak out.

House hopes to develop an educational video similar to the B.C. Lions', using Saskatchewan athletes. She said when a professional athlete speaks out against domestic violence or derogatory comments, it carries weight.

Giesbrecht agreed that athletes have an important power to harness as role models. She said campaigns like Be More Than a Bystander and policies like the CFL's "can hopefully be part of showing youth that violence against women will not be tolerated, and be part of an attitudinal shift that will change the way the next generation will view violence against women."

THE POLICY

The CFL's Policy on Violence Against Women has three main components. It covers everyone who works for the CFL and its members clubs, as well as incidents that occur at league facilities.

Prevention and education

- * Mandatory annual training on violence against women for all CFL employees and member clubs.
- * Support of and participation in awareness efforts on violence against women, especially ones targeting youth.

Responding to violence

- * Fully investigate every allegation of violence, and engage local law enforcement authorities where applicable.
- * Impose sanctions in confirmed cases or if there is a clear violation of protection, court or police orders. Sanctions range from fines to single or multiple game suspensions to lifetime bans.
- * Acts of violence by members of the public on CFL or member club property can be met with penalties ranging from expulsion to permanent bans.

Assistance to victims


- * The situation and risk of future violence will be assessed, and help for the victim will be provided thanks to response teams made up of local expertise.
- * Support for behaviour change on the part of the perpetrator will be offered.

nlypny@leaderpost.com

twitter.com/wordpuddle

- [« Previous](#)
- [1](#)
- [2](#)
- [View as one page](#)
- [Next »](#)

© Copyright (c) The Regina Leader-Post

- [E-mail this Article](#)
- [Print this Article](#)
- Share this Article 

Story Tools

- [E-mail this Article](#)