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**Abuse detection comes to workplace;
FAMILY VIOLENCE**

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Training on how to detect family violence is coming to the Ontario workplace.

A \$622,000 grant to a London centre, spread over two years, is intended to detect signs of domestic abuse and provide help for victims who are employees.

The grant from the Ontario government to the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children in London will provide access to information as well as information on how to respond to signs of abuse for both employers and employees. It will devise a workplace training program intended to detect and deal with abuse.

The move comes as the Occupational Health and Safety Act is amended to require employers to take action to protect their staff.

"If the right people knew the right response we know we could have averted tragedy," Deb Matthews, minister of women's issues said yesterday, referring to the stabbing death of Lori Dupont by her doctor-boyfriend at a Windsor hospital three years ago.

"This investment will make a profound difference," said the North-London-Centre MPP.

The money will help the four-year-old Neighbours, Friends and Families program extend into the workplace. That awareness campaign is in 170 communities across Ontario.

The London centre will provide materials to employees and employers across the province.

Barb MacQuarrie, community director for the centre, said it's important workers and employers see the signs of domestic trouble and find a caring response to avert outbreaks. Violence on the homefront affects worker productivity, she noted.

MacQuarrie said persuading victims of abuse to open up can take some work, so one group targeted for information is hairstylists, because "women talk to their hairstylists," she said.

She said while some victims of violence are men, the evidence is it is a small number.

Peter Jaffe, academic director for the centre, said statistics show overwhelmingly women are the victims. In domestic homicides, for instance, 94% of the time men are the perpetrators. And 80% to 90% of spouses living in fear of their partner are women.

Jaffe said it's hard to reach men who are isolated and depressed and who need help.

"How do you get men to ask for help?" he asked, conceding barbers might have a role to play.

MacQuarrie said she expects the amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act will be enacted late this year.