

Man addresses abuse

By VICKIE MEGRATH
Calgary Sun

Fewer men would beat their spouses if they weren't abused themselves, claims a local man who says he was a victim of domestic violence.

Earl Silverman, 43, says he was a battered husband and wants to set up hotline counselling services for battered men.

"Studies show that men are abused by their spouses — mentally, physically and emotionally," he said.

"The problem is that society concentrates on abused women. If a man told police he'd been abused by his wife, they'd laugh at him.

"The federal government and women's groups studies

show only half the problem — that women are abused — so at best, we'll only get a 50 percent solution to the problem of domestic violence."

Silverman feels if more men were counselled, fewer would take out frustrations on their wife or children.

He made a presentation to the mayor's task force on violence about battered men.

Silverman has had preliminary talks with a local service club about funding a battered male hotline at a cost of about \$37,000 a year and he hopes to talk to the Action Committee Against Violence (ACAV) as well.

Recommendations from the mayor's task force on violence and a Violence Prevention Implementation Committee go to council Monday.