

Mobile app links women at risk with alarm system

Vancouver Sun April 26, 2013



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Women at risk of violence from their ex-partners are now able to carry a new mobile app that connects them to a 24/7 monitored alarm system.

Ending Violence Association of B.C., in partnership with SOS Response and Telus, announced the launch of the safety app Thursday at a Vancouver news conference.

The made-in-B.C. app was launched as a pilot project to run in five communities - Prince George, Terrace, Vernon, Courtenay and Surrey.

If a woman's safety is threatened, she presses a button on her cellphone triggering the SOS response app. The app takes 30 pictures in 30 seconds, and sends them to a monitoring centre with Securiguard Services.

SOS Central immediately phones back for verification and if the woman does not answer, does not provide the password, or the photos indicate an emergency situation, SOS Central contacts police. Women can get the app from the Ending Violence Association of B.C. website. While the app is free to download, it costs \$34.95 a year for the 24/7 monitored alarm system.

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