

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 23, 2020

### Telecom companies Shaw Communications and Rogers provide devices to support B.C. women and others facing gender-based violence during the pandemic

**Vancouver, BC** - Shaw Communications and Rogers step up to support increased safety for women and individuals facing gender-based violence throughout B.C. by providing complimentary cellular phones along with voice and data plans to the Ending Violence Association of British Columbia (EVA BC).

This will provide an essential digital lifeline for those experiencing domestic abuse. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, anti-violence service providers across B.C. are reporting they are seeing an increase in demand for help and an increase in severity of the types of violence that are being reported.

The social distancing required during the pandemic has made it difficult for those facing violence to access services safely and confidentially. In April, through consultations, the Government of Canada reported a 20 to 30 per cent increase in domestic violence rates in certain regions across Canada.

[UN Women](#) has termed the trend a “shadow pandemic, estimating that 243 million women and girls aged 15-49 had experienced sexual or physical violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months”. They said that, “during this crisis, such violence would likely increase as security, health and money worries heighten tensions and strains are accentuated by cramped and confined living conditions. Across the world, one in three women experience physical or sexual violence during their lifetimes.

Both telecommunications companies are providing cell phones and network plans to meet the urgent needs. The donation will help women stay connected with EVA BC’s network of frontline anti-violence service providers.

### QUOTES

“For both Shaw and Rogers to provide this type of critical support demonstrates how committed these two telecommunications companies are to helping the communities and organizations they work with. Shaw and Rogers are ushering in a new standard of Canadian corporate social responsibility in finding a solution to our technology needs. Our organization can now return our focus to providing service to those hurt by violence who greatly need help during these uncertain times.” - **Tracy Porteous, EVA BC**

“By providing crucial emotional support, and vital information and resources to survivors of sexual assault and domestic abuse, EVA BC’s programs are providing an essential service for the health and safety of some of our most vulnerable. We are honoured to provide connectivity that supports their frontline anti-violence staff as they work tirelessly

to help everyone affected, especially now as they navigate the unique circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic.” - **Kathryn Hearder, VP Field Operations, Shaw Communications**

“With increasingly distressing rates of violence against women and children, particularly due to isolation caused by the pandemic, EVA BC is coordinating critical supports to B.C. women in crisis to ensure safety, healing and resources. We are proud to support the important work of EVA BC by providing an essential digital lifeline that will help keep vulnerable women connected.” - **Perm Jawanda, VP Partner Retail, Rogers Communications**

### **ABOUT Ending Violence Association of British Columbia (EVA BC)**

EVA BC is a solutions-based provincial association that trains and supports over 300 anti-violence programs and cross-sector initiatives across the province that respond to sexual and domestic violence, child abuse and criminal and sexual harassment. EVA BC also undertakes research, develops resources and tools, conducts public education, develops best practices, and works toward ending violence through prevention initiatives such as the award-winning Be More Than a Bystander: Break the Silence on Gender Based Violence partnership with the BC Lions Football Club.

### **ABOUT SHAW**

Shaw Communications Inc. is a leading Canadian connectivity company. The Wireline division consists of Consumer and Business services. Consumer serves residential customers with broadband Internet, Shaw Go WiFi, video and digital phone. Business provides business customers with Internet, data, WiFi, digital phone and video services. The Wireless division provides wireless voice and LTE data services through an expanding and improving mobile wireless network infrastructure.

Shaw is traded on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges and is included in the S&P/TSX 60 Index (Symbol: TSX - SJR.B, SJR.PR.A, SJR.PR.B, NYSE – SJR, and TSXV – SJR.A). For more information, please visit [www.shaw.ca](http://www.shaw.ca)

### **ABOUT ROGERS**

Rogers is a proud Canadian company dedicated to making more possible for Canadians each and every day. Our founder, Ted Rogers, purchased his first radio station, CHFI, in 1960. We have grown to become a leading technology and media company that strives to provide the very best in wireless, residential, sports, and media to Canadians and Canadian businesses. Our shares are publicly traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: RCI.A and RCI.B) and on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: RCI). If you want to find out more about us, visit [about.rogers.com](http://about.rogers.com).

For information on EVA, please contact Ninu Kang at [kang@endingviolence.org](mailto:kang@endingviolence.org) or call 604-725-0184.

For further information on the Shaw Communications and Rogers donation, please contact Maryam Marissen at [maryam@burrardstrategy.com](mailto:maryam@burrardstrategy.com) or call 604-773-5951.