

Canadian DVERS Communities
(as of September 2000)

CITY	LAUNCH DATE	YEAR
Winnipeg, MB	March	1991
Laval, QC	August	1991
Ottawa, ON	February	1992
Guelph, ON	May	1992
Calgary, AB	June	1992
Saskatoon, SK	July	1992
Regina, SK	July	1992
Vancouver, BC	February	1993
Brandon, MB	April	1993
Edmonton, AB	April	1993
Halifax, NS	June	1993
St. Albert, AB	September	1993
Sherwood Park, AB	September	1993
Hamilton, ON	February	1994
Peel Region, ON	May	1994
Surrey, BC	October	1994
Delta, BC	October	1994
Montreal, QC	October	1994
Gatineau, QC	November	1995
Hull, QC	December	1995
Aylmer, QC	December	1995
Longueuil, QC	January	1996
Windsor, ON	February	1996
Kingston, ON	March	1996
Victoria, BC	June	1997
Caledon, ON	August	1997
Toronto, ON	April	1998
New Westminster, BC	April	1998
Niagara Region, ON	May	1998
Langley, BC	August	1998
Quebec City, QC	March	1999
Courtenay, BC	June	1999
St. John, NB	October	1999
Burnaby, BC	June	2000
Halton Region, ON	October	2000

Note: Additional Canadian cities pending.

The DVERS program has also been successfully implemented in over 160 communities in the United States.



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Domestic Violence Emergency Response System



Origin

ADT Security Services Canada, Inc. is a division of Tyco Fire and Security International Ltd. ADT is the world's largest security solutions provider, and has built relationships that protect over 2.5 million customers across North America. To serve our highly valued customers, ADT has Sales, Service and advanced Customer Care Centres (CCC) across Canada.

Since 1991, ADT has taken a strong initiative in the fight against domestic violence. ADT has implemented the DVERS (Domestic Violence Emergency Response System) program, donating portable security systems to victims of domestic violence in over 180 North American communities.

DVERS was initiated by ADT, the city of Winnipeg and EVOLVE (a local social agency) in March 1991, in response to reports on the plight of abused and battered women in that city. In Winnipeg, permits are required for alarm systems that elicit police response. To protect a client in danger, EVOLVE originally used medical alert systems directed through a local hospital. As the hospital was not set up to transfer a signal to police, the system did not offer immediate and appropriate intervention. The Winnipeg Police recommended that a company specializing in security systems be consulted. As a result of collaboration between police authorities, shelter representatives and ADT, the DVERS program was born.

Objectives

The immediate objective of the DVERS program is to provide participants with added security and some peace of mind within their own home. Longterm, it is hoped that public knowledge of the DVERS program will act as a deterrent to would-be abusers. It is also an excellent opportunity to establish and strengthen close, long-term working relationships with local police authorities and social service agencies across the country. The DVERS program is a very important component of ADT's overall philosophy of using corporate resources to give back to the communities where we do business.

Community Service

The first of its kind in North America, the DVERS program (known as AWARE in the United States) is a reflection of ADT's solid commitment to the community. ADT provides the equipment, installation, training and 24 hour a day monitoring, all at no cost to the participant or the local community.

A Collaborative Effort: The Three Party Network

The DVERS program is coordinated at the local level by social service agencies, local law enforcement and ADT representatives. The systems are distributed to people who are considered to be in high-risk domestic violence situations and who meet the eligibility criteria as determined by participating social agencies and/or police authorities.

Responsibilities of Each Party: The Local DVERS Committee

- **Local Social Agency:** Representatives from the participating social agencies are responsible for helping coordinate the program. They meet with the potential participant, review their specific situation, and may recommend that a system be installed in their home. ADT is then contacted with the approved review and then provides installation and connection to the advanced CCC. At this point, the Police are also contacted to formally register the participant for a priority response, should an alarm be activated.
- **ADT Security Services Canada, Inc.:** Security Professionals from ADT install the alarm system on the premises of the participant, referred by the DVERS committee. They test and ensure proper connection to the CCC, then train the individual and, if applicable, their children. When a DVERS alarm is received, professionally trained ADT Associates notify the police immediately. A DVERS alarm is classified as a 'life safety' alarm by ADT.
- **Local Police Authorities:** A DVERS signal is treated by police as a 'priority alarm' requiring immediate dispatch to the scene. The police department keeps data on all participants in the DVERS program for control and response purposes.

Cooperation, coordination and mutual respect for each party's expertise within the local community are the key ingredients for ensuring the ultimate on-going success of DVERS. This provides an important measure of safety, security and peace of mind to victims of domestic violence.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an ADT portable alarm system, the person must be a resident of the city covered by DVERS and referred by a participating social agency. The individual must be considered at high risk where the potential threat of physical violence is imminent. The system is to be used as a last resort when all available alternatives have failed. Other eligibility criteria include:

- the perpetrator must no longer be living in the victim's residence;
- the participant must be totally receptive to protection measures as determined by the police authorities and/or social agencies;
- there must be a legal restraining order in place against the perpetrator;
- the participant must be willing to press charges if, as a result of a DVERS alarm, the perpetrator is apprehended.

