

**2012 Alberta inspiration awards
November 16, 2012 - Art Gallery of Alberta
Hon Dave Hancock, Minister, Human Services**

Thank you, Greg and good evening everyone.

On behalf of our Premier, Alison Redford, and all my colleagues in government – some of whom I am very glad to see here tonight, and whom Greg has already introduced – I am pleased to be here with you this evening.

And thank you for the great job you are doing so far hosting this event!

This is a very exciting night – the celebration of the first-ever Inspiration Awards, for leadership in family violence prevention.

The awards were created this year to recognize Albertans who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to ending family violence in their communities.

The name “Inspiration Awards” was chosen because of the incredible inspiration so many of you provide to others.

As many of you have seen first-hand, family violence can have devastating and long-lasting effects.

The nominees and recipients here tonight each provide help in different ways.

We all know how important it is to help those who need support, and also to work on preventing family violence.

It is a terrible crime that should never occur in the first place.

By recognizing November as Family Violence Prevention Month, we remind Albertans of the importance of the issue, also how to find help when they or those they care about are faced with family violence.

When I became Minister of Human Services last year, one of my first speaking engagements was at an appreciation event for those working in the family violence prevention community in Alberta.

At that time, I was pleased to announce the creation of these awards.

And now I have the honour of welcoming you tonight and presenting the recipients with their awards.

Being here tonight makes me feel as if the program has come full circle.

I have had the pleasure of visiting some of the province’s organizations and meeting dedicated professionals.

But this is a unique event in that it also includes many of you who contribute as volunteers or through your workplaces and businesses.

For all the nominees and recipients, and our other partners here tonight – your dedication, compassion and leadership have an immeasurable impact on the lives of Albertans, and I thank you for your contributions.

We are grateful to have you as partners, and for the difference you make for our province's families.

Everyone has a role in preventing family violence, and we stand with you and share your commitment to supporting Albertans who need our help.

I know we will continue to work together, and with our partners in communities and across government, to do this.

An evening like this would not be possible without the people working behind the scenes:

From members of the selection committee to the various program and communication staff responsible for all the planning and ultimately delivering on this very successful event.

Thank you for contributing to this most important event.

Tonight brings us together to recognize exceptional leadership and commitment to preventing family violence across the province.

We know that to make a difference, you need to be truly dedicated to helping others to have better lives.

Congratulations to all of you who were nominated this year!

To have been nominated acknowledges what you have done - how you have done it and -motivated someone to tell us what an inspiration you are.

Being nominated by your peers is an honour in its own right.

Can I please ask all of the nominees to stand, so we can recognize you?

Through your selfless dedication, you inspire others to take action and to make a difference.

I have great respect for all of the nominees and the recipients being recognized this evening. Here with us this evening, are about 150 people who are dedicated to ending family violence.

I want to congratulate and thank each of you for caring so much about those you serve in your communities.

Families count on you, your communities count on you and I count on you, as we all work together on this critical social issue.

Thank you again, and it will be my pleasure to present the awards to the recipients this evening.

[The Minister is invited to stay on the stage to participate in the awards ceremony. Any MLAs present will be invited up to help present awards to recipients in their constituency with the Minister.]