

## Check Against Delivery

### **Community Action for Healthy Relationships Network Annual Membership Meeting May 22, 2014, Westlock Honourable Sandra Jansen, Associate Minister of Family and Community Safety, Human Services**

#### Framework background:

- Goal is to change attitudes from abuse to respect
- Developed using evidence-based practices
- Adapted to work with the unique and diverse communities in Alberta.
- Framework is a collaboration between five ministries:
  - Aboriginal Relations
  - Education
  - Health and Alberta Health Services
  - Human Services and
  - Justice and Solicitor General
- Community and research partners were also very involved.
- Also included the input of hundreds of clients who use our services.

#### Why the framework is important:

- We know that every hour of every day, a woman is a victim of some form of violence by an ex-spouse or partner.
- Across government, we spend more than \$70 million annually to deal with family violence.
- Helping women and children who have fled abuse has cost more than \$600 million over the past five years.
- And more than 74,000 Albertans have reported physical or sexual abuse by a spouse or partner in the last five years.

#### New prevention activities under the framework:

- Albertans need to know what they can do about this.
- To increase awareness, we need to expand beyond our traditional partners.
- Some examples are the faith community, sports groups, workplaces – any group where people may be concerned about a friend or colleague, but don't know what to do or how to help.
- Working with experts to develop new social engagement tools and campaigns.

#### Improve supports when abuse does occur:

- Improve access to resources for all Albertans regardless of gender, culture, or geographic location
- Specific plans for our rural and remote communities so everyone gets the help and support they need, regardless of where they are.
- Expand a peer support program in partnership with Mount Royal University to address dating violence in post-secondary institutions.
- Expand the delivery of training on trauma informed practices.
- Funding has been increased to enhance the home visitation program so staff who are in a home with vulnerable children can recognize and respond to family violence.
- Peer support programs will be increased so victims of family violence can see a future for themselves from someone who has been there.
- Begun work on a sexual violence prevention framework because these incidents of violence are so often linked to family violence.

#### Alberta's Family Violence Death Review Committee:

- Between 2003 and 2011, 17 per cent of Alberta homicides occurred in the context of a domestic violence dispute.
- And sometimes partners are not the only victims. Some victims are children or bystanders.
- We need to look at these tragic incidents and we need to learn from them.
- Death Review Committee is made up of experts who have extensive knowledge of family violence.
- Dr. Allen Benson of Native Counselling Services of Alberta is the chair.
- The group is tasked with reviewing cases and providing expertise that will help us provide the best services and supports.
- They will report back to government each year and their recommendations will guide us in making the system better.

#### Inspiration Awards

- This annual event celebrates the inspiration that our friends, neighbours and co-workers give us when they work to prevent family violence.
- I hope to hear some great success stories that are happening out there.
- If you already have great stories to share, I encourage you to look into our Inspiration Awards.
- One of last year's recipients was Kelly Johnston, one of your leadership team members.
- I enjoyed meeting him and I hope to see more nominations from your group this year as well.
- Visit [familyviolence.alberta.ca](http://familyviolence.alberta.ca) for more information.

#### Conclusion:

- Thanks for your ongoing dedication to helping victims of family violence.
- With this framework, we are building a safer, healthier Alberta.
- I am happy to answer any questions you may have.