

Check Against Delivery

Family Violence Research Symposium October 15, 2014, Leduc Honourable Heather Klimchuk, Minister, Human Services

Welcome...and thank you all for being here today.

I am so pleased the Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services are partnering on this learning opportunity.

The idea for this event arose from Alberta's framework to end family violence.

In that framework...we committed to increasing learning opportunities for everyone who works with victims or offenders.

It is great seeing that promise come to fruition.

I want to commend today's organizers in both Human Services and in Alberta Health Services.

You have done a fantastic job bringing together the top experts in this field.

I want to thank our presenters for making their work accessible to us in this way.

By sharing information about best practices...we can improve our collective efforts.

Today's theme of intervention to prevention is so appropriate because it represents both of the paths we need to follow to get to our end goal.

Our morning is focused on intervention services and our keynote presenter...Dr. Ennis... will take us through a risk management model that will help identify the appropriate follow-up supports and services.

The afternoon keynote will be provided by Dr. Warthe (***pronounced Worth***) of Mount Royal University.

She will help us learn about new ways we can increase public awareness of family violence resources and issues.

We have all heard the statistics and we all know they are staggering.

Violence or abuse occurs every hour of every day in Alberta.

We cannot allow this to continue.

I believe that by increasing awareness of these issues... and by getting people talking about it... we can start to make a change.

All of you here today, and those of you tuning into the webcast... likely have some connection to existing support services.

I know that you know what needs to be done.

But we need to bring more people along with us.

We need everyday Albertans to get involved.

That is what this afternoon's discussions will be about.

We need men, youth, faith leaders... coaches... employers – everyone to be aware that family violence hurts everyone...

And that we all have a role to play in stopping the cycles of abuse.

So I appreciate you being here to open your minds to that.

This knowledge will ultimately help all individuals and families who are dealing with violence and abuse in their homes.

I have been Minister of Human Services for only a few weeks.

But I am already aware how important it is that we start to make some inroads on this issue.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive and meaningful dialogue.