

Check Against Delivery

City of Edmonton Proclamation of Family Violence Prevention Month November 3, 2014, Edmonton Honourable Heather Klimchuk, Minister, Human Services

Hello and thank you for inviting me to be here today.

And thanks as well to Elder Elsie Paul, Councillor Andrew Knack, Superintendent Mark Neufeld, and Jim Gurnett, for their commitment to ending family violence in our communities.

Both the City of Edmonton and the province of Alberta have much to be proud of in terms of our work together to end and prevent family violence.

But we are here today because there is more to do.

Too many families are still affected and continue to struggle with violence and abuse perpetrated by people they should feel safe with.

So we need to continue to raise awareness as we are doing today.

I have been part of this community for many years and I know there is great work going on. Agencies like WIN House, the TODAY Family Violence Help Centre, and the Pride Centre of Edmonton work hard every day to support victims and keep them safe.

And our local network organization, Community Initiatives Against Family Violence, brings it all together.

I want to recognize and thank these and the other community agencies that step up each day.

Know that your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Our theme for this launch event and the month to come, "Families are the Fabric of Our Community" is an appropriate one.

Families not only make up our communities but they are building the future for us; raising the next generation with the skills and values they will need.

When a family is torn apart; that fabric, that material that connects our communities, is torn as well.

We can sew it back together.

When we gather with one voice, as we have gathered today.

When we recognize that there is a problem that we all have a role in solving.

We are speaking out with one voice.

We are helping stitch our families and communities back together.

And that fabric becomes stronger along the new seams.

Everyone in attendance today is here because, in some way, family violence and abuse has affected them.

Whether it is through your chosen work, or you are a supporter of a survivor, or you are a survivor yourself; you are here because you know it is within you to be a force for change.

You are the part of the solution.

In my work, as Minister of Human Services, I stand with you.

Family violence needs our continued attention, funding and focus.

I will take that message back to my colleagues in Cabinet and we will continue to move forward on the good work done to date.

We will continue to work with our community partners and shelter agencies.

And this year, we were proud to launch the Family and Community Safety program.

With a funding commitment of \$20 million, we will support projects and community plans that end violence and abuse, as well as some of the root causes that lead to discord in the home.

I look forward to seeing that program roll out in the coming months.

Because it means that we are continuing to move forward and add more supports and services that people can turn to in their time of need.

Again, thank you to the City of Edmonton for this proclamation and to all of you for being here.

You are the truly the weavers of our community fabric.

Thank you.