

Check Against Delivery

“I Believe You” Campaign Launch September 19, 2016 – Calgary Honourable Irfan Sabir, Minister, Human Services

I would first like to congratulate... the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services... for launching Phase Two of this powerful awareness campaign.

Sexual assault is a horrific crime... that devastates thousands of Albertans every year.

Too many survivors... are forced into silence.

Often... they do not feel safe telling others.

Or they fear being blamed... for the violence they have faced.

But survivors need our support.

They deserve to be believed.

The “I Believe You” campaign... continues to help us achieve our common... goal of putting an end to sexual violence.

Using three simple words – I Believe You, is the first step.

But we need to be bolder.

In Phase Two of the campaign... all Albertans can show their support... by saying, “We Believe You.”

A culture of believing... enables us to begin the important work... of creating stronger, safer communities... free of violence.

That’s why our government... is proud to be a partner... in this crucial campaign.

Our government stands with survivors.

We support 11 sexual assault centres... across Alberta... that provide programs and services... to support and strengthen survivors... of these terrible crimes.

We have also provided the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services... with a Family and Community Safety Program grant... for \$800,000.

This funding will be provided over a three-year period... so the association can continue this campaign... and continue to make a positive difference in the lives of survivors... and those who love them.

This is in addition... to \$10 million in funding... in budget 2015... for programs to address child abuse... family violence... and sexual violence... throughout Alberta.

We are committed... to working with our community partners in all sectors... to put an end to assaults on the dignity of Albertans...and humanity.

With the right tools..... we can all make a difference.

Only by working together... will we end sexual violence... and support survivors... as they begin to heal.

So I would like to thank everyone... who has supported this campaign so far... and those who have come here today... to lend their voice to this powerful message.

Because there is power and numbers.

And our united voice... here today and across Alberta... sends a powerful message:

Violence is unacceptable... and we will stand against it.

Survivors will not be forced into silence.

So... in closing... I encourage all Albertans... to be part of the solution... part and spread the message:

We believe you!

Thank you.