



**Minister's Response to the
Family Violence Death Review Committee's
Fourth Case Review Report**

May 2018

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Background

The Family Violence Death Review Committee (FVDRC) is a multi-disciplinary, expert body, composed of individuals who have extensive knowledge or experience in the area of family violence. The FVDRC was established under the *Protection Against Family Violence Act* (PAFVA). Under section 16 of PAFVA, its role is to:

- (a) review incidents of family violence resulting in deaths; and
- (b) provide advice and recommendations to the Minister respecting the prevention and reduction of family violence.

The FVDRC reviewed a case from 2011 involving a male victim who was killed by his partner during an altercation in their home. The couple lived in Alberta with their six children. The couple had been living together for eight years and both were unemployed, experiencing addiction to prescription drugs, alcohol and mental health issues.

Responses to the Recommendations

Our thoughts are with the loved ones and family of the victim who continue to feel this tragic loss. We are committed to working with Indigenous communities and community partners to address family violence and build healthy communities for all Albertans.

The Ministry of Children's Services accepts recommendation one:

- In addition to the training that is provided to staff and agencies on the effects of intergenerational trauma, the Ministry of Children's Services will be launching an Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework. This will support staff across the Ministry to deliver services to Indigenous communities in culturally appropriate ways that recognize the history of intergenerational trauma.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education recognizes the value of implementing curriculum and coursework that explores the historical context of colonialization and its impact on Indigenous peoples in Canada. The ministry will work with post-secondary institutions to explore further opportunities to work together on this issue.

The Government of Alberta accepts the intent of recommendations two and four:

- \$1.8 million has been invested in on-reserve family violence prevention and over \$1 million has been provided for Victim Supports Outreach for communities, including Indigenous communities.
- The ministry will work collaboratively with Indigenous leadership and communities to work explore further ways to strengthen family violence prevention and supports.

The Ministry of Children's Services accepts recommendation three:

- The ministry recognizes the importance of service standards, which is why child intervention practice standards are in place and regularly assessed to ensure services are delivered consistently across communities.

The Ministry of Children's Services accepts recommendation five:

- The Government of Alberta is actively working with the federal government to advocate and address the service disparity for Delegated First Nation Agencies on-reserve.

The Minister of Community and Social Services will be speaking with the Committee further to discuss their recommendations and actions government is taking. We would like to thank the Committee for their valuable recommendations and shared commitment to addressing family violence and making Alberta safer for all Albertans.