



**Minister's Response to the
Family Violence Death Review Committee's
Sixth 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's sixth public case review was a case from 2013 where a victim was killed by their partner (gender has not been identified to protect confidentiality). The couple were both individuals who came to Canada as refugees under Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity claims, and had been together for approximately two years when the incident occurred. The couple had not sought assistance from social services, police services or mental health services for their ongoing relationship difficulties. While in Alberta, the offender frequently sought medical attention at urgent care sites and was diagnosed with having a neurological disorder. Clinicians later determined the offender's medical issues to be the result of emotional stress and trauma.

Responses to the Recommendations

Our thoughts are with the loved ones and family of the victim.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services is committed to ensuring supports and resources are available for all Albertans, especially those at higher risk of relationship violence. We recognize the unique needs of newcomer and LGBTQ2S+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirited) communities and have invested \$10.76 million for culturally diverse and LGBTQ2S+ communities through the Family and Communities Safety Program grants with the intention of supporting prevention efforts that address issues of family violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and bullying.

Ensuring awareness of and updating the family violence public resource materials and website are a priority for Community and Social Services. Action is being taken to make resource materials more responsive to the needs of diverse communities. In 2018, Community and Social Services will have a modernized website and new and updated information sheets to support better information sharing and awareness. We will continue to work with newcomer, multicultural and LGBTQ2S+ communities to share learnings, identify gaps, and explore ways to further improve our response to family violence.

The Ministry of Alberta Health will continue to work with stakeholders, such as Alberta Health Services and professional colleges, to identify opportunities to increase the awareness of family violence as it relates to the provision of care for patients, including LGBTQ2S+ Albertans.

Community and Social Services will meet with the FVCRC to discuss these recommendations and next steps.

Conclusion

We would like to thank the Committee for their report on this tragic case. We value the recommendations provided by the FVDRC as they provide valuable insight into the work this government does to improve the lives of the most vulnerable Albertans.