



ALBERTA  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Banff - Cochrane*

December 4, 2008

AR 21275

Mr. Allan Buteau  
5815-50 Avenue  
Redwater AB T0A 2W0

Dear Mr. Buteau:

Thank you for providing me with a copy of your letter outlining your concerns about family violence and its impact on men. As Minister of Children and Youth Services, I am pleased to provide you with information about Alberta's programs and resources that are available to victims of family violence.

Family violence has devastating consequences for children, men and women. The Alberta Government is committed to working in partnership with community agencies to support safe community initiatives across the province, including programs and services to help victims of family violence. Priority strategies for family violence prevention are set based on demonstrated service needs identified by nine government departments, service providers and community partners.

In 2008-09, \$59 million will be invested to prevent family violence and bullying. The following are some examples of Edmonton and area services and provincial initiatives that receive government support:

- Edmonton John Howard Society, Family Violence Prevention Centre (780-423-1635) - an outreach support centre for abused men and women;
- City of Edmonton Community Services (780-496-4777):
  - **Men Without Hats** - a weekly drop-in group for men in need, at risk or interested in pursuing personal development.
  - **Men and Relationships** - this program is designed to help participants understand their relationships. It presents opportunities to explore the health of their current and past relationships, heal from previous difficulties they may have experienced, cope with current life crisis, and plan and initiate desired changes and begin to build a foundation for better living.
  - **Men's Talk and Do Groups** - Personal development groups that support men's self-esteem, learning to better deal with relationships, parenting, coping with current crisis, physical health and recreation, and developing a personal support network.

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- Amending our *Protection Against Family Violence Act* to include stalking and enhanced protection for victims regardless of age or gender;
- Supporting 10 sexual assault centres;
- Implementing six safe visitation sites to assist families that have experienced family violence (Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Fort McMurray and Red Deer);
- Over \$15 million has been provided to support more than 400 community partnerships to take action on family violence and bullying since 2004. Information on all of the projects is available at [www.familyviolence.alberta.ca](http://www.familyviolence.alberta.ca);
- A toll-free family violence information line (310-1818) is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in 170 different languages;
- Continued development of online and print resources; for example, *Men Abused by Women in Intimate Relationships* booklet and information sheet, which can be accessed at <http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/documents/familyviolence/PFVB3789.pdf>; and
- Emergency shelter for male victims in Strathmore, and outreach programming provided through a partnership with The Calgary Counselling Centre.

As your most recent e-mail indicates, November is Family Violence Prevention Month, devoted to increasing public awareness in the area of family violence and bullying and the resources available to all Albertans. This year's focus - *End the Silence. Stop the Violence* - encouraged Albertans to call the info line at 310-1818 to obtain information and help for people affected by family violence. Our public awareness resources, such as the radio ads, which included female-perpetrated violence, demonstrate that family violence affects everyone.

I encourage you to visit our website to find additional information on the supports and services available for male victims in Alberta, or to call Ms. Janet Pavlic, Manager, Community Mobilization, at 780-422-5916, to discuss how to become involved in community-based initiatives to address family violence in your community. Thank you for providing your support to the safety and well-being of men who have been victimized by family violence.

Sincerely,



Janis Tarchuk  
Minister