

A Healthy Approach

October 24, 2008

Province adds new treatment beds for young adults with addictions

Calgary... Young Albertans will have greater access to residential treatment programs with the opening of 20 new treatment beds in two existing addiction recovery centres.

The beds are the first government-funded, specific spaces for young adults aged 18-24. They are part of the government's actions to strengthen Alberta's communities and treat repeat offenders who have mental health and substance abuse issues in an effort to keep them out of the justice system.

"Young men and women are in a critical period of transition between adolescence and adulthood with unique treatment needs," said Ron Liepert, Minister of Health and Wellness. "These two centres have the supports and programs in place to help treat young adults while providing support and assistance to their families. Expanding access to addictions treatment in order to create healthy and safe communities is also one of the key initiatives in the Alberta government's Health Action Plan."

Calgary's Aventa centre will house and operate eight of the new treatment beds and Poundmaker's Lodge Treatment Centres, near Edmonton, will house and operate seven of the beds for young women and five for young men. Both facilities have experience dealing with the 18-24 year-old population, addiction expertise, and the willingness to collaborate on program development.

"Reducing the misuse of alcohol and illicit drugs can have a significant impact on crime and associated social problems," said Alison Redford, Minister of Justice and Chair of the Safe Communities Secretariat. "This is an excellent example of the progress we are making working together through Alberta's Safe Communities initiative to deal with the root causes of crime."

The 20 new treatment spaces bring the total number of Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) treatment beds funded by the government to 342. Last year alone, there were nearly 15,000 annual admissions in the 22 AADAC detoxification and residential treatment facilities across Alberta.

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