

More support for victims of family and sexual violence

June 11, 2014 [Media inquiries](#)

As part of Alberta's plan to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families, more supports are being added so victims of family violence and sexual abuse can better access the help they need.

New resources to [sexual assault centres](#) will address wait times, add more staff to improve access to services in rural Alberta and increase collaboration of services for child victims of sexual abuse. An additional \$2 million was provided across Alberta for an annual total of nearly \$4 million.

“Sexual assault and family violence are difficult to talk about, but victims deserve the best system of supports that we can offer. This increased commitment will ensure that victims get the help they need when they need it.”

Manmeet S. Bhullar, Minister of Human Services

\$3 million will support 70 more beds for [women's emergency shelters](#), especially in high-needs areas, to address the greater demand for shelter spaces, services and outreach workers.

“Victims need to know that the community supports them and has the services in place to help them heal. This funding will allow us to work with our community partners to raise awareness of the issue.”

Sandra Jansen, Associate Minister of Family and Community Safety

“Sexual assault and sexual abuse happens in every community. These resources will help to make essential sexual assault services available to the many Albertans who need them. We know that by working together we can make a difference in the lives of individuals, families and communities to create an Alberta free of sexual violence.”

Debra Tomlinson, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services

An additional \$1 million will be provided to contracted shelters for salary and benefit increases to help retain and recruit staff.

"We welcome these increases as they will make a significant difference to women and children fleeing violence. The increases represent a comprehensive approach which provides outreach, additional beds and recognizes the valuable role played in our province by shelter workers."

Jan Reimer, Executive Director, Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

This commitment was made in support of Alberta's [Five Point Plan](#) to address the root causes that bring children into care, take action to support vulnerable Albertans, and keep children healthy and safe.

Under the [Building Alberta Plan](#), our government is investing in families and communities, living within our means, and opening new markets for Alberta's resources to ensure we're able to fund the services Albertans told us matter most to them. We will continue to deliver the responsible change Albertans voted for.

Related information

- [Sexual assault centres](#)
- [Women's emergency shelters](#)
- [Alberta's Five Point Plan](#)

Multimedia

- [Video: Two Paths](#)
a public service announcement on preventing family violence

Media inquiries

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