



ALBERTA
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Office of the Minister

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His Worship Amarjeet Sohi
Mayor
City of Edmonton
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Sohi:

Thank you for your letter regarding financial support for Edmonton-area women's domestic violence shelters and the need for investment in gender-based violence prevention programs and services. As Minister of Community and Social Services (CSS), I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

One of the Government of Alberta's key priorities is making sure critical shelter and support programs are available to any Albertans at risk of, or experiencing, domestic violence. Our network of domestic violence supports in the province is broad and accessible to all Albertans.

Funding was maintained in Budget 2022 at over \$54 million for operations and programming for women's emergency shelters, second stage shelters and family violence initiatives across the province. Nearly \$1 million of this funding goes to the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) to advance priorities aligned with the province's strategy to prevent and address domestic violence. This funding facilitates support for capacity building in women's shelters, provincial coordination and collaboration, education and public awareness of domestic violence, and research and policy development in the area of domestic violence.

Of the total funding for women's emergency shelters, the Edmonton-area will receive over \$10.8 million to support four women's emergency shelters, four second stage shelters and one senior's abuse shelter. This includes \$1.6 million to Jessie's House, a 35-bed emergency shelter, which opened in Morinville in 2020. Jessie's House will help increase regional shelter capacity in the Edmonton-area, and address gaps in service in the surrounding areas, including Edmonton Garrison, Morinville, St. Albert and Sturgeon County.

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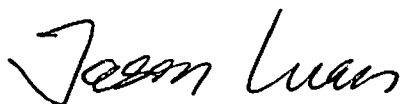
So far this year, almost \$4 million has been invested into supports for people in the Edmonton area impacted by family violence and sexual violence. That includes over \$2 million for the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton and several other grants to local community agencies that support family violence prevention. In addition, the Family Violence Information Line, the Bullying Helpline and Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence also continue to be available to provide counselling, support, information and referrals to other resources for Albertans seeking assistance.

Community and Social Services works closely with women's emergency shelters and service providers to facilitate access to supports for anyone impacted by family violence from such programs as Income Support and Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH). In 2021/2022, Community and Social Services provided over \$250 million in Income Support and over \$460 million in AISH funding to support individuals in Edmonton. During this time, the ministry also spent \$15.1 million on supports and emergency benefits for Albertans fleeing domestic violence through the AISH and Income Support programs. Additionally, Community and Social Services provided \$35 million for Career and Employment Information Services and \$3.8 million for the Low Income Transit Pass to support Edmontonians. Each of these programs offers benefits designed specifically for the needs of individuals leaving abusive situations.

The ministry will continue to work closely with the ACWS and our funded Edmonton-area women's shelter operators to ensure services and supports are available to those in need with a focus on fiscal accountability and sustainability.

Thank you again for writing. I look forward to our continued partnership and collaboration as we work together to address the needs of vulnerable Albertans in Edmonton.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Luan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jason Luan
Minister of Community and Social Services