

⊲Γ^b·Γ˙⊲˙.^b"Δb³ (Amiskwacîwâskahikan), Treaty 6 Territory 300, 10010 106 St. NW Edmonton, AB T5J 3L8 (780) 456-7000

voice@acws.ca www.acws.ca

Dear Premier Smith,

I'm writing to extend congratulations on your becoming Alberta's 19th premier. I have no doubt that you share the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters' conviction that our province should be a safe place for all Albertans to live, and we look forward to working with your office to advance our goal of a world free from violence and abuse.

ACWS brings close to four decades of experience and knowledge to serve our 39 members operating over 50 shelters across the province for people facing domestic abuse. We advocate for members and work with them to end domestic violence through culture-shifting violence prevention programs, collective data and research, and front-line training. With support from ACWS, Alberta shelters are helping to provide safety, support families, and improve communities.

We are eager to work with the Government of Alberta to tackle the ongoing, serious problem of gender-based violence. The costs of this violence in the province include not only the staggering personal costs of pain and suffering inflicted on survivors, their children and families, but they also represent a public health crisis, a human rights and equality crisis, and a resource crisis. Domestic violence places an enormous cost on our already-strained and hardworking government and community resources. We all pay the bills: in the health system, the criminal justice system, the education system and in both rural and urban parts of the province.

I would like to share with you a copy of ACWS' report on <u>advancing the National Action Plan to end gender-based violence in Alberta.</u> We want to work with you to end gender-based violence, advance Truth and Reconciliation efforts, and make our communities safer for women and gender minorities. Thank you for your attention to these important issues – we would like to request a meeting with you and members of your cabinet who share the responsibility to work together to end violence against women and girls.

Again, congratulations, and I hope that we will be able to continue to develop our relationship with you and your ministers to address these important issues.

Best regards,

Jan Reimer, Executive Director

Jan Reimi