



News release

**BUILDING  
TOMORROW**

**A PLAN** to secure Alberta's future

November 5, 2007

## **\$26-million investment helps contracted agencies hire and keep staff**

*Edmonton...* Agencies that support children and youth, adults with developmental disabilities and other vulnerable Albertans will be better prepared to recruit and retain staff thanks to an investment of \$26.1 million from the Alberta government.

Alberta's human services agencies have told government that if they could attract and keep more qualified staff, they would be in a better position to offer the high-quality services Albertans continue to receive.

"This issue is of great concern to my government," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "That's why we've listened and are making an additional investment to help contracted agencies attract and keep staff."

Seniors and Community Supports will contribute \$15 million with an additional \$10 million from Children's Services and \$1.1 million from Health and Wellness. Agencies will have the flexibility to determine how best to use the funding to address their specific attraction and retention needs.

"Social services agencies play a valuable role in our communities," said Janis Tarchuk, Minister of Children's Services. "Working together to find solutions is all about doing what's best for Alberta's children, youth and families."

"The funding will also help adults with developmental disabilities continue to get the support and services they need to enjoy a high quality of life," said Greg Melchin, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports.

In addition to the funding the agencies receive through the annual contract negotiation process, these ministries have invested an extra \$68.3 million since 2005-06 to address the agencies' human resources issues. The government has also funded initiatives like bursaries to help offset the costs related to ongoing staff training, and a human resources strategy for the disability service sector that includes raising awareness about careers in community care and creating the [www.communitydisabilityservicesalberta.com](http://www.communitydisabilityservicesalberta.com) website.

"The government-funded agencies that are contracted by AADAC on behalf of Alberta Health and Wellness are an essential part of Alberta's network of addiction services," said Dave Hancock, Minister of Health and Wellness. "At a time when the province's population and prosperity are rapidly growing, this funding will help these highly valued agency professionals respond and continue to provide responsive care and treatment that benefits Albertans."

The Persons with Developmental Disabilities community boards, the child and family services

authorities and AADAC will work directly with their contracted agencies to ensure funding flows to agencies by the end of December.

Ensuring Albertans have access to quality programs and services is an important part of Premier Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building our communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity.

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