



ALBERTA
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Spruce Grove-Stony Plain*

general@truenorthab.com

Dear Amanda Vanderlaan:

Thank you for your letter sharing your thoughts about the continued need to provide supports for Albertans experiencing family violence.

I appreciate seeing the hand-made cards from the Love a Shelter Campaign. These speak highly of the community's commitment to increase the awareness of family violence and the supports required in our province.

I commend your organization on its exceptional history supporting individuals experiencing family violence and your innovative approach to service delivery. I acknowledge the concerns you raised in your letter about the importance of providing resources and supports for victims of gender-based violence.

My ministry is committed to family violence prevention and ensuring women and children fleeing violence have a safe place to go. To that end, our government has committed an additional \$10 million over four years for women's shelters. More than \$5 million in funding for women's shelters has been rolled out. This will be followed by investments of \$1.5 million as part of Budget 2024 and in 2025-26, and \$2 million in 2026-27. These investments build on what we heard at the roundtable with shelter partners on February 1, where they shared their concerns about the number of longstanding unfunded beds and units.

I would like to thank True North for sending Rita Spark to attend the February 1 roundtable, which informed our shared work in providing critical services to prevent family and gender-based violence in all its forms. This conversation was the start of a discussion on a collective vision for the future of this sector.

As a next step, we will be working with partners to develop a strategic vision and roadmap for women's shelters in the future. We recognize there is a lot more work to do in the longer term to address some of the challenges and opportunities ahead. I look forward to continuing our important work together.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Searle Turton', written in a cursive style.

Honourable Searle Turton
Minister of Children and Family Services