

Family Violence  
Death  
Review  
Committee



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Recommendations and Responses  
Tracking Document

## **Family Violence Death Review Committee Recommendations and Responses Tracking Document**

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# Family Violence Death Review Committee's Recommendations and Responses

The Family Violence Death Review Committee (FVDRC) is a multi-disciplinary, expert body, composed of individuals with extensive knowledge or experience in the area of family violence. Established under the *Protection Against Family Violence Act* (PAFVA) and reporting to the Minister of Community and Social Services (CSS), the FVDRC reviews incidents of family violence deaths in Alberta. Of those incidents, the FVDRC selects individual cases for an in-depth case review to determine why the deaths occurred and what measures can be taken to prevent similar deaths. Specific to each case, the FVDRC makes recommendations to the Minister of CSS for intervention and prevention strategies to support the reduction of family violence.

Government ministries impacted by the recommendations provide a response to the Minister of CSS. The following table tracks the FVDRC recommendations and government responses commencing with Case Review Report No. 7 and onwards. Previous FVDRC case reviews and government responses can be viewed at <https://www.alberta.ca/family-violence-death-review-committee.aspx>.

## Case Review Report No. 7

**Release Date:** July 2019

**Incident:** In 2012, a female victim was found by the police deceased in her home from multiple stab wounds. The perpetrator was later found in a different location, having died as a result of suicide.

**Link to full text of report and responses to recommendations:** <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/fvdr-c-case-review-public-report-no-7>

Recommendations	Entity responsible	Response	Response date	Publication date
1. To Alberta Community and Social Services, the FVDRC recommends:  a) The development of a public awareness strategy targeting educating and empowering bystanders of family violence to promote Albertans' understanding of:	Community and Social Services	Accepted	January 9, 2020	January 2021

Recommendations	Entity responsible	Response	Response date	Publication date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• where and how to get help with family violence; and</li> <li>• what constitutes 'high risk' as it relates to family violence, abusive behaviours and warning signs.</li> </ul>				
<p>2. To Alberta Community and Social Services, the FVDRC recommends:</p> <p>a) To explore best practices and implement a coordinated services model to address family violence in Alberta, focusing on effective and early responses, and which include the capacity to address cumulative trauma for both victims and perpetrators.</p>	Community and Social Services	Accepted in principle	January 9, 2020	January 2021
<p>3. To Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, the FVDRC recommends the development and implementation of dedicated additional supports for perpetrators to address:</p> <p>a) The cumulative trauma and complex needs of perpetrators who have been victims of abuse themselves; and</p> <p>b) The need for enhanced, ongoing supports to assist perpetrators and their families with continued rehabilitation once involvement with the justice system has ended.</p>	Justice and Solicitor General	Part a is accepted, part b is not accepted	August 5, 2020	January 2021
<p>4. To Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services, in collaboration with relevant Alberta government ministries, the FVDRC recommends the development of additional services to address the following gaps in Alberta's health services related to family violence, trauma and mental health:</p>	Health and Alberta Health Services	Accepted	July 5, 2020	January 2021

Recommendations	Entity responsible	Response	Response date	Publication date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The further development of enhanced individualized treatment services targeting the complex needs of family violence victims;</li> <li>b) The further development of enhanced individualized treatment services targeting the complex needs of family violence perpetrators; and</li> <li>c) Increase equitable access to health supports through Alberta’s health system, in order to address the shortages of health services and to ensure Albertans have equitable access to mental health services and treatment in a less cost-prohibitive manner.</li> </ul>				

# Case Review Report No. 8

**Release Date:** July 2019

**Incident:** A man was shot in rural Alberta.

**Link to full text of report and responses to recommendations:** <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/fvdrc-case-review-public-report-no-8>

Recommendations	Entity responsible	Response	Response date	Publication date
<p>1. To the Ministry of Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The FVDRC recommends that Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services requires hospitals and medical professionals to complete family/domestic violence screening at all health care facilities and centres.</li> <li>b) The FVDRC also recommends that Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services work in concert with Alberta Community and Social Services to make available training for medical staff and professionals that addresses the importance of screening for abuse in clinical settings, and that the training on screening is made part of all employees' annual training requirements.</li> <li>c) The FVDRC recommends that Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services expand the best practice model of the Calgary Domestic Violence Coordinator to be scaled up to the provincial level.</li> </ul>	Health and Alberta Health Services	Accepted by Health	April 2, 2020	January 2021
<p>2. To the Ministry of Alberta Education: All teachers in Alberta have a responsibility to report abuse or suspected abuse of children to the proper authorities. It is recommended that Alberta</p>	Education	Accepted in principle	July 17, 2020	January 2021

Recommendations	Entity responsible	Response	Response date	Publication date
<p>Education work with Alberta School Boards to educate members of the duty to report under <i>Alberta's Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act</i>.</p> <p>a) The FVDRC recommends that Alberta Education work with Alberta educators, school boards and divisions in the province to develop a consistent policy which outlines a clear process for where and how to report suspected child abuse/and or neglect and the professional sanctions imposed on those who fail to act.</p>				
<p>Re-recommendation 1. Alberta Children's Services, in partnership with Indigenous expertise in child welfare, develop an online training tool for staff of all agencies that work or deal with Indigenous communities, in order to increase the knowledge and skills required to respond to the effects of intergenerational trauma and the residential school system on Canadian Indigenous individuals, families and communities.</p> <p>The ministry must make services and supports available to Indigenous persons working in agencies to ensure that they also have the supports available to them to heal from the trauma they have experienced in their lives so that they are healthy and effective community leaders.</p> <p>The ministry must make services and supports available to Indigenous persons working in agencies, to ensure that they also have the supports available to them to heal from the trauma they</p>	Advanced Education and Children's Services	Accepted in principle by Children's Services Not Accepted by Advanced Education	July 3, 2020	January 2021

Recommendations	Entity responsible	Response	Response date	Publication date
<p>have experienced in their lives so that they are healthy and effective community leaders.</p> <p>The ministries of Alberta Advanced Education, Alberta Children's Services and Alberta Indigenous Relations, in partnership with Indigenous expertise in child welfare, work with post-secondary institutions to develop, implement and evaluate core curricula for all social services disciplines on the history of colonialism in Canada; and the effects of intergenerational trauma on Indigenous individuals, families and communities.</p>				
<p>Re-recommendation 2. Government of Alberta identify and increase support for successful programs aimed at reducing family violence in Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Programs must be community-based, culturally relevant, led by Elders and incorporate a collaborative community development approach. The lessons learned need to be disseminated and shared.</p>	Government of Alberta	Indigenous Relations is supportive of the intent of the recommendations	March 2, 2020	January 2021
<p>Re-recommendation 3. In partnership with Indigenous expertise in child welfare, Alberta Children's Services must ensure that child welfare standards are adhered to when dealing with Indigenous families and communities.</p> <p>The ministry must regularly audit and evaluate interventions and work with relevant Indigenous partners and communities to improve and enhance practice standards and risk assessment</p>	Children's Services	<p>Accepted in principle by Children's Services</p> <p>Accepted in principle by Indigenous Relations</p>	April 2, 2020	January 2021



<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Entity responsible</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response date</b>	<b>Publication date</b>
tools to ensure child welfare practice standards are being complied with.				
<p>Re-recommendation 4. Taking into consideration the history of colonialism and the effects of intergenerational trauma, it is recommended that the Government of Alberta, in collaboration with relevant Indigenous partners, develop an action plan to prevent family violence in Indigenous communities in Alberta, with the action plan focusing on the root causes of family violence in Alberta's Indigenous communities.</p> <p>The action plan needs to complement and inform the provincial framework to end family violence and be published and be made publicly accessible.</p>	Government of Alberta	Indigenous Relations is supportive of the intent of the recommendations	March 2, 2020	January 2021
<p>Re-recommendation 5. Given the findings from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and recent reports and recommendations by the Auditor General of Alberta and the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate regarding child welfare practice in Indigenous communities, the Committee recommends that the Government of Alberta engage the federal government with the goal of adequately resourcing designated First Nation's agencies in Alberta.</p>	Government of Alberta	Indigenous Relations is supportive of the intent of the recommendations	March 2, 2020	January 2021