

ACWS POSITION ON A FAMILY VIOLENCE COMMISSION

ACWS supports the establishment of an external commission responsible for co-ordination and delivery of all family violence and prevention programs and services.

Family violence is too complex a social problem to be housed in any one department. In addition, the present system of numerous provincial ministries and regional authorities fragments a complicated service delivery network. Funding, programs and even a basic understanding of family violence issues are inconsistent across this province.

Family violence programs cover a wide scope, i.e., women with and without children, seniors (male and female), families, vulnerable persons, aboriginal women, men, youth and children, other ethno cultural groups and the general community. We believe an external commission based on the AADAC model (using regional delivery arms with a central governing body appointed by and reporting to the Minister of Children's Services) would be much more effective in delivering family violence services across Alberta.

We believe the advantages of setting up a Commission are:

- ◆ The ability to set and implement a consistent provincial direction for family violence issues
- ◆ Direction comes from a shared understanding of family violence prevention issues
- ◆ An identifiable source of expertise throughout the province
- ◆ Perceived as independent and more objective
- ◆ A higher public profile
- ◆ Better able to leverage private sector dollars
- ◆ Stronger linkages with federal initiatives
- ◆ Clear accountability
- ◆ Alberta would be a leader in Family Violence services and prevention programs

Current Status:

In early 2002, ACWS proposed a family violence commission be established to Minister Iris Evans as part of her Women's Shelter Review.

In November, 2002, ACWS presented this concept as part of our presentation to the Standing Policy Committee.

In the spring/summer of 2003, retired Judge Walder White and William Hurlburt recommended the establishment of a Premier's Council on Family Violence with a similar mandate to that proposed by ACWS.

We believe in a world free from violence and abuse.

February, 2004

In October, 2003, Premier Klein announced that there would be a Roundtable on Family Violence “ to bring together all the government departments and community agencies involved in the prevention of, and response to, family violence. The roundtable will help us get a firm understanding of the scope of the problem and propose concrete solutions to resolve it as much as possible...” (PowerPoint presentation by Sheryl Fricke, Nov. 29, 2003).

The Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence is scheduled for May, 2004 following a series of regional workshops that will be held across the province in February and March, 2004.

We believe in a world free from violence and abuse.