

# Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS)

## Response to Recent Media Coverage (print; electronic; radio interviews) on Lack of Sexual Assault Resources for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse.

In the recent exposure of child sexual abuse in our province we have seen an increase in the amount of information surrounding this topic circulating in the media. And though it is necessary to continue to break the silence around sexual violence, it is **equally necessary that the information that is circulated around this crime is true and correct and reflects the issue, the programs and the services that are currently in existence to help those who are survivors of sexual violence.**

Within the past 8 months there have been numerous statements from various individuals, organizations and well intended child sexual abuse advocates stating that there are no resources available for male and female child sexual abuse survivors.

As the Alberta provincial organization that provides leadership, coordination and a unified voice on sexual violence, while increasing recognition, support for and access to sexual violence services in Alberta, it is imperative to set the record straight. Although well intended, the information that has been reported is inaccurate around the impact of sexual violence and resources available, and diminishes the existing sexual assault centres and resources which have provided support to countless sexual abuse and sexual assault survivors.

Alberta has a number of sexual assault centres and services throughout the province that offer support for male and female survivors of child sexual abuse. Most have been in existence for 25+ years, which have developed an extensive knowledge base from combined years of expertise by offering specialized services working in sexual violence. "It is not the lack of expertise or specialization that is providing barriers to building wider services, but rather funding for these centres that have already supported hundreds of thousands of survivors in Alberta" says Danielle Aubry, Executive Director of CCASA and spokes person for AASAS.

Danielle Aubry further says that even with funding issues, these centres and service agencies along with the broader community of professionals who also work with male and female survivors are still able to find ways to reach out and help male and female survivors of sexual violence. To this end, AASAS is sponsoring a comprehensive workshop for counseling professionals delivered by the Men's Project ([www.themensproject.ca](http://www.themensproject.ca)) in April 2013 in both Calgary and Edmonton.

We invite the media to contact their local sexual assault services or AASAS to engage in further conversation and discussion about the integrated, specialized and comprehensive services offered throughout Alberta to those survivors of sexual violence. Please visit the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services website [www.aasas.ca](http://www.aasas.ca) for a comprehensive listing of sexual assault centres in Alberta.