



November 3, 2009

## Region speaks out against Family Violence

### ***Communities come together to put the issues of Family Violence and Bullying in the spotlight***

*North Central Alberta...* Although family violence is not unique to Alberta, our province continues to have the highest rate of spousal abuse in Canada. Statistics on the subject are staggering. In 2006, 22 per cent of all violent crime victims were also family violence victims and 69 per cent of these individuals were abused by spouses.

Family violence and bullying have devastating social, health and economic consequences for families, communities and society as a whole. 2006 statistics show that only 28 per cent of victims of spousal assault turned to the police for help. In 2006 there were 4, 447 reported incidents - this equates to more than 11, 400 instances of violence that were never documented.



“Family violence is not something that corrects itself and it is not something that diminishes during times of financial stress,” says North Central Alberta CFSA Aboriginal Co-Chair, Audrey Franklin. “Everyone needs to take a stand against family violence and bullying and the events that have been planned around our Region are great opportunities for putting these issues front and centre in our communities.”

November is Family Violence Prevention Month. It is our vision is to reside in a province where children and families are free from family violence and bullying; a place where our children, youth and families can live safely in their homes and communities. No one should have to live in fear of violence and abuse. No child should be exposed to family violence or bullying.

How can you end the silence and stop the violence? If you hear or see something that you feel is not quite right with family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors or youth in your life, or you suspect someone you know is experiencing family violence or bullying, call the 24 hour/ 7 day week info lines to find out how you can help:

Family Violence Info Line: 310-1818

Bullying Helpline: 1-888-456-2323

Events have been planned for the communities of Cold Lake, Whitecourt, Slave Lake and Lac La Biche. For more information on events in these areas please access the North Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority website at

<http://www.northcentralalbertacfsa.gov.ab.ca/home/589.cfm> and click on the **Family Violence Prevention Month – Events Across Region 7** link.

The North Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority is one of 10 such Authorities in the province. It delivers a wide range of services and programs to keep children and youth safe and strengthen families. The Authority serves a rural, culturally diverse region with nearly 140 communities, literally stretching from border to border (Saskatchewan to British Columbia). There are 14 school divisions, 38 Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) districts, 4 Métis Settlements, and 5 Delegated First Nations Agencies within its boundaries.

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**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

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