



ALBERTA  
MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary - Currie*

JAN 20 2023

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Cathy Heron, President  
Alberta Municipalities  
300, 8616 51 Ave NW  
Edmonton AB T6E 6E6

Dear Mayor Heron:

Thank you for your congratulatory letter. I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about Alberta Municipalities and Resolution B10: Advancing Action on Alberta's Drug Poisoning Crisis.

I look forward to supporting the continued development of Alberta's recovery-oriented system of care which provides access to a continuum of services and supports that incorporate prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery. In *Budget 2019*, Alberta committed \$140 million over four years to ensure Albertans have access to a continuum of high quality care and supports. *Budget 2022* invests an additional \$20 million annually to further implement a recovery-oriented system of care that will offer a coordinated network of community based services and supports that is person-centered and builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families and communities. This is in addition to the more than \$800 million that Alberta Health Services spends each year on addiction and mental health services in communities across the province.

Alberta is seeing success with recovery-oriented supports. There has been a decrease in opioid-related deaths and opioid-related EMS responses in Alberta since the peak in December 2021. Factors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions caused increases in unintentional opioid overdose deaths. Fatality rates continue to decline as Alberta recovers from the pandemic and continues to implement strategies to address the addiction crisis. By expanding and accelerating efforts to increase recovery-oriented service capacity, Alberta can continue to bend the curve.

Recent investments in new and innovative addiction recovery programs and services such as recovery communities, therapeutic living units in correctional facilities, expansion of Regional Police and Crisis Teams (rPACT) and expansion of Alberta Health Services Opioid Dependency Program clinics will ensure that Albertans continue to be supported on their recovery journey.

Thank you again for writing. I appreciate Alberta Municipalities continued advocacy and support for the well-being of your residents.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Milliken  
Minister of Mental Health and Addiction