

# AASAS Response to Provincial Election Funding Commitments to Sexual Violence Support Services

The fact that sexual violence is being discussed by both parties during this election campaign is a sign that this issue's importance is being recognized and is being considered seriously.

AASAS is grateful to all the members of the public who raised this issue with the government and election candidates this year, expressing their support for adequately and sustainably funding sexual assault services in our province.

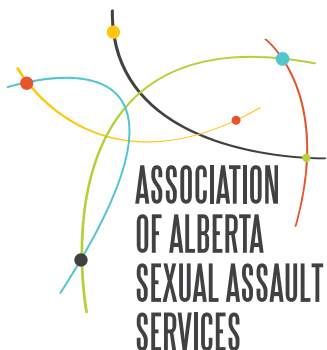
As the coordinator and convener of these sexual assault services across Alberta, AASAS is mandated to serve the needs and wishes of those organizations and how they see needs unfolding in every corner of the province.

We will continue to bring those collective concerns, ideas, challenges and solutions forward in thoughtful, data-based, and best-practice informed ways, and work with decision makers and policy makers to establish long-term funding formulas and priorities.

Whatever funding is provided by the elected government, it will be utilized in a manner that is informed by research, data, and those in the sector that are trained, trauma-specialized professionals.

Our members are facing a growing challenge in Alberta where cases are becoming more complex – including substance dependency, homelessness, economic and mental health challenges and more – and as the complexity grows, the government's response needs to address those complexities.

AASAS remains committed to working with the Government of Alberta, regardless of who prevails in the election, and will always be strong advocates for Albertans who are served by our members across the province.



*“It is significant that sexual violence is being discussed during this election campaign - acknowledging the importance of supporting survivors of sexual violence in our province. With 43% of Albertans experiencing sexual violence in their lifetimes, and the increased complex needs of survivors, adequately and sustainably funding specialized support services is a priority. As the coordinator and convener of sexual assault services across Alberta, AASAS looks forward to working with the elected government on this important commitment to survivors.”* Deb Tomlinson, CEO of AASAS