

2025–2026
**Annual
Report**

Working
Together for an
Alberta Free from
Sexual Violence



LAND

Acknowledgement

In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, we acknowledge the many First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples who have nurtured these lands since time immemorial.

AASAS and our member agencies are located on the ancestral, traditional and unceded lands and traveling routes of the Indigenous Peoples represented in Treaties 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 and the home of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta, Districts 1 through 22. We are grateful to all Indigenous communities, including the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders of past and present for stewarding this land on which we live, work and visit. As guests on this land, we extend our gratitude, and commitment towards reconciliation.

We also recognize that land acknowledgments are just one step toward Reconciliation. Ending sexual violence requires us to work together across communities, sectors, and systems. This includes recognizing our shared responsibility to address the ongoing impacts of colonialism and racism, which continue to create the conditions for violence. Through relationships rooted in respect, reciprocity, and accountability, we are committed to building trust and safety in the wake of these harms and working together towards safe communities free from sexual violence.

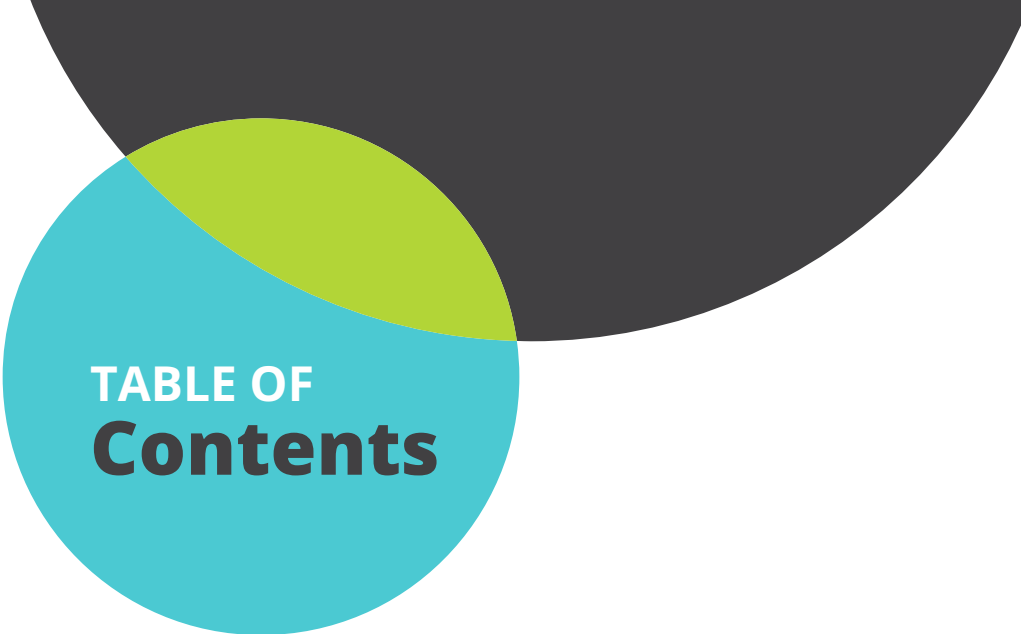


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WHO WE ARE & What We Do

When people think about the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS), they often think of us as a provincial association. While that is true, our work is really about something much bigger.

AASAS brings together Alberta's network of specialized sexual violence services. Across the province, our member agencies provide a continuum of trauma-specific care for children, youth, and adults, including crisis intervention, systems navigation, therapeutic counselling, specialized police and court support, public education, and community partnerships. Together, they reach more than 100,000 Albertans each year through counselling rooms, classrooms, courthouses, crisis lines, hospitals, and communities across Alberta.

AASAS' role is to help this provincial network work together and speak together. We describe this through three simple ideas.

Connecting Voices means bringing together the leadership, expertise, and lived experience of our member sexual violence services to identify emerging issues, share promising practices, and speak collectively about the needs of survivors and communities. Through provincial committees, communities of practice, collaborative planning, and government engagement, we help ensure that frontline knowledge informs policy, funding, and system improvement.

Connecting Communities means supporting collaboration across Alberta so survivors can more easily access specialized services close to home. By building relationships, coordinating provincial initiatives, and sharing resources and expertise, we help strengthen connections between communities, sectors, and systems.

Connecting the Dots means bringing together knowledge from across the province. Through shared practice frameworks, common program descriptions, evaluation, and provincial data, we help identify emerging trends, demonstrate the impact of specialized sexual violence services, and ensure the experiences of survivors and frontline service providers inform provincial conversations and decision-making.



Together, we are many voices united by one purpose: safe communities free from sexual violence.

Vision

An Alberta free from sexual violence.

Mission

To provide leadership, coordination, collaboration and a unified voice on issues of sexual abuse and sexual assault.



Core Beliefs

- Anyone can be a victim of sexual abuse and sexual assault.
- Anyone affected by sexual abuse and sexual assault has the right to access effective, affordable and timely services that are distinct and specialized.
- Everyone has the capacity and resiliency to recover from sexual abuse and sexual assault.
- Victims of sexual abuse and sexual assault are not to blame and perpetrators must be held accountable.
- Society minimizes the crime of sexual abuse and sexual assault on individuals and that minimization has devastating outcomes for survivors.
- Services addressing sexual abuse and sexual assault need to be delivered in an inclusive, respectful and equitable manner regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation or ability.
- There is a need for increased recognition and support for existing and emerging sexual assault services in Alberta.
- Education and awareness initiatives need to be targeted at everyone.
- The prevention initiatives are not to be targeted to survivors or potential survivors but towards perpetrators and potential perpetrators as well as those who can intervene.
- Treatment is a form of prevention because healthy individuals and healthy communities break the cycle of abuse.
- In the need for treatment and greater access to treatment for perpetrators of sexual abuse and sexual assault.

Association of Communities
Against Abuse - **Stettler**

Calgary Communities
Against Sexual Abuse

Aurora Sexual Assault
Centre - **Lethbridge**

Dragonfly Counselling &
Support Centre - **Bonnyville**

YWCA **Banff** Harmony Project

Lloydminster Sexual Assault
Services

Hinton Friendship Centre
Mamowichihitowin Community
Wellness Program

Pace Community Support,
Sexual Assault & Trauma
Centre - **Grande Prairie**

Saffron Centre -
Sherwood Park

Sanare Centre -
Medicine Hat

Sendero Centre - **Red Deer**

Sexual Assault Centre of
Edmonton

University of Alberta Sexual
Assault Centre - **Edmonton**

Waypoints Sexual Trauma Support
Services - **Fort McMurray**

● **Treaty 8** ● **Treaty 10** ● **Treaty 6**
● **Treaty 7** ● **Treaty 4**

AASAS members are specialized sexual violence and trauma specific services with a primary mandate to respond to and prevent sexual violence. They provide a continuum of core services to Albertans of all ages and genders impacted by sexual violence including: crisis, support and information, system navigation, counselling therapy, public education, outreach, specialized police and court support, and coordination and collaboration.





MESSAGE FROM **Leadership**

Throughout 2025–2026, AASAS continued to build on its role as a provincial leader and coordinator of collective action to address sexual violence. Guided by our strategic plan, we strengthened relationships with government and community partners, advanced access to justice initiatives, expanded opportunities for training and capacity building, deepened our commitment to equity and inclusion, and supported a coordinated provincial network of specialized sexual violence services.

This work took place in a challenging environment. Sexual violence services across Alberta continue to experience growing demand, increasing complexity of client needs, workforce pressures, and ongoing resource constraints. In response, AASAS remained focused on strengthening the systems, partnerships, and provincial infrastructure needed to support survivors today while working toward a future free from sexual violence.

Corinne Ofstie and Haley Scott
Co-Chief Executive Officers



STRATEGIC GOAL 1

Embed Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging as Guiding Values and Foundational Principles

Sexual violence does not impact all communities equally. Historical and ongoing experiences of colonialism, racism, discrimination, exclusion, and systemic barriers can increase vulnerability to violence while simultaneously creating barriers to accessing support and justice. AASAS is committed to ensuring that policy, prevention, and service delivery efforts are informed by the voices and experiences of diverse communities across Alberta.



CREV KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Informing Policy and Prevention Through Diverse Lived Experience

Throughout the year, AASAS strengthened relationships with organizations serving Indigenous and equity-deserving groups to better understand how sexual violence prevention strategies can reflect the realities, strengths, and priorities of the communities they are intended to serve.

As part of our work to deepen provincial sexual violence prevention priorities, AASAS engaged organizations serving Indigenous communities, newcomers, racialized communities, older adults, people with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals. Through focus groups, consultations, and relationship-building activities, participants shared insights regarding the barriers, challenges, and opportunities that influence sexual violence prevention within their communities.

These conversations reinforced the importance of culturally grounded, relationship-based approaches that recognize the unique strengths and experiences of diverse communities. Participants highlighted the importance of addressing stigma, systemic inequities, accessibility barriers, and social isolation while strengthening community connections, belonging, and culturally relevant prevention efforts.

"Effective primary prevention of sexual violence must be community-driven, culturally grounded, and responsive to diverse and intersecting experiences."

- Sector Priorities for the Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence

Strengthening Capacity to Support Newcomers to Canada

Ensuring equitable access to support requires services that are responsive to the diverse experiences of Alberta's communities. In partnership with the Centre for Newcomers, AASAS delivered a specialized learning series designed to strengthen understanding of the unique barriers newcomers may face when seeking support following sexual violence.

More than 200 sexual violence service providers participated, increasing their knowledge of culturally responsive approaches and strategies to reduce barriers to accessing support. This initiative strengthened the capacity of Alberta's sexual violence sector to provide more inclusive and accessible services for newcomer communities.

18

Participating
organizations

6

Focus
groups

28.5

Hours of shared
learning

30

Equity-deserving
group
partnerships

10

Indigenous
community
partnerships

Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

AASAS remains committed to advancing Truth and Reconciliation through relationship building, collaboration, and ongoing learning. During the year, Indigenous perspectives and knowledge informed multiple initiatives, including our work to deepen provincial sexual violence prevention priorities and strengthen community-based approaches to addressing violence.

AASAS also continued its partnership with the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) and the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) through the Centring Relationships to End Violence (CREV) initiative. This collaborative effort brings together friendship centres, women's shelters, and sexual violence services to strengthen culturally safe supports for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people affected by violence. During 2025–2026, partners continued regional Communities of Practice, facilitated knowledge sharing and relationship-building activities, and participated in a provincial knowledge exchange attended by 87 representatives from friendship centres, sexual assault centres, and women's shelters across Alberta. Together, participants explored ways to strengthen cultural safety, deepen collaboration, and support Indigenous-led approaches to preventing and responding to violence.

Friendship centres,
sexual violence services,
and women's shelters
working together to
strengthen culturally
safe supports for
Indigenous survivors

16

Regional
Communities
of Practice
sessions

87

Participants at
the provincial
CREV Knowledge
Exchange



anfca
alberta native friendship
centres association



ACWS
ALBERTA COUNCIL OF
WOMEN'S SHELTERS



**Centring Relationships
To End Violence**

STRATEGIC GOAL 2

Advance Awareness and Understanding About How to Respond to and Prevent Sexual Violence

Creating meaningful change requires increasing awareness and building the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively to sexual violence. AASAS supports professionals, workplaces, community members, and organizations across Alberta through evidence-informed education and training initiatives designed to strengthen responses to sexual violence and contribute to long-term prevention efforts.



"Beautiful, informative and sensitive training on such an important and under addressed topic"

- Training Participant

Building Capacity to Respond to Sexual Violence

485

professionals, paraprofessionals, students, and community members trained through First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse workshops.

97%

reported they can provide a positive and supportive first response to a disclosure of sexual violence.

36

counsellors and mental health practitioners completed the Counselling Adult Survivors of Sexual Violence course.

90%

increased confidence using evidence-based approaches when supporting survivors.

AASAS continued to coordinate the First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training, providing participants with foundational knowledge about sexual violence, trauma, disclosure, and supportive responses. This training remains one of Alberta's core educational resources for professionals and community members seeking to strengthen their ability to respond effectively and compassionately to survivors.

AASAS also coordinated the Counselling Adult Survivors of Sexual Violence course, supporting the development of specialized knowledge and skills among counsellors working with survivors. Through this training, participants strengthened their understanding of trauma, recovery, and evidence-informed approaches to supporting healing from sexual violence.

"The course helped me feel more confident in my counselling practice and offered many paths to further explore with continued learning."

- Training Participant



Preventing Workplace Sexual Harassment

Workplace sexual harassment remains a significant issue affecting individuals and organizations across Alberta. Through Engagement Strategies Toward Ending Workplace Sexual Harassment, AASAS provided education designed to increase awareness of workplace sexual harassment, its impacts, and practical strategies for prevention and response.

Participant feedback demonstrated meaningful increases in understanding of workplace sexual harassment, its impacts, and bystander intervention strategies. Participants also reported increased confidence in responding to workplace sexual harassment and contributing to safer workplace environments.

Advancing Sexual Violence Prevention

AASAS continued to advance provincial conversations about sexual violence prevention by building on earlier work to identify sector priorities for primary prevention. Working with sexual violence services, Indigenous organizations, and organizations serving equity-deserving groups, AASAS facilitated a province-wide engagement process to explore the community conditions, barriers, and opportunities that influence sexual violence prevention in Alberta.

Through six focus groups and consultations involving 18 organizations providing services to Indigenous, newcomer, racialized, disability, older adult, and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, participants helped refine and validate provincial prevention priorities. This work was supported by more than 285 hours of shared learning and capacity-building activities, ensuring participants had a common understanding of sexual violence and primary prevention concepts before contributing their expertise.

This collaborative process is contributing to the development of a stronger, more coordinated, and more inclusive approach to sexual violence prevention in Alberta, one that reflects evidence, community expertise, and the lived experiences of those most affected.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORKING GROUP



STRATEGIC GOAL 3

All Albertans Have Access to a Full Continuum of Identifiable Sexual Violence and Trauma-Specific Services

Access to specialized sexual violence services is essential to healing, recovery, and justice. Throughout 2025–2026, AASAS worked to strengthen service sustainability, improve access to justice options, and support coordinated responses to sexual violence across Alberta.

Alberta's
ONELiNE
for Sexual Violence

CALL OR TEXT
1-866-403-8000

CHAT
aasas.ca

Enhancing Access to Justice

Exploring New Reporting Pathways for Survivors

3

Multi-sector
advisory
committees

5

Platform
iterations
informed by
consultation

9

Indigenous and
equity-deserving
community
partnerships

11

Consultations with
Indigenous and
equity-deserving
organizations

Many survivors face significant barriers when considering whether to engage with the criminal justice system. AASAS continued to work with justice system partners to improve survivors' experiences and expand access to information, supports, and options.

One significant initiative involved the development and assessment of Online Reporting Pathways for Survivors of Sexual Violence. Through a multi-sector development process, AASAS established advisory committees representing service providers, legal experts, and organizations serving Indigenous and equity-deserving communities. Five iterations of the reporting platform were developed and refined through ongoing consultation, legal review, and engagement with sexual violence services, justice system partners, and community organizations.

While the project ultimately identified significant legal and practical barriers that prevented implementation, it generated important knowledge about survivor-centred reporting mechanisms and informed broader conversations about how justice systems can better support survivors.

National Knowledge-Sharing Webinar with

123

Registrants

89

Attendees



Building Stronger Justice System Partnerships

AASAS continued to play a leadership role in provincial justice initiatives through participation in the Sexual Violence Police Advisory Committee and ongoing collaboration with RCMP K-Division's Sexual Assault Investigation Review Committee.

These partnerships bring together law enforcement, government, victim-serving organizations, and sexual violence experts to identify service gaps, improve investigative practices, strengthen survivor supports, and promote a more consistent response to sexual violence across Alberta.

Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence

AASAS continued to coordinate Alberta's ONE LiNE for Sexual Violence, a province-wide entry point connecting survivors, support people, and professionals with specialized sexual violence information, crisis intervention, and referrals. Delivered in partnership with Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse and the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton, ONE LiNE helps ensure Albertans can access specialized support regardless of where they live.

Across all three service channels, phone, text, and online chat, the ONE LiNE provides immediate, trauma-informed, survivor-centred support. Responders help individuals understand the impacts of sexual violence, explore medical, legal, reporting, and support options, navigate complex systems, and connect with specialized services, while ensuring each person maintains choice, control, and autonomy over the decisions that are right for them.

Beyond coordinating day-to-day operations, AASAS provides provincial leadership for the ONE LiNE by overseeing governance, quality improvement, evaluation, promotion, and ongoing collaboration between partner organizations. Through regular review of service trends, community needs, and emerging issues, the ONE LiNE also provides valuable insight into the needs of survivors and help-seeking patterns across Alberta, helping to inform service planning and strengthen Alberta's coordinated response to sexual violence.

Throughout 2025–2026, the ONE LiNE responded to increasing demand for specialized support while continuing to connect thousands of Albertans with sexual assault services, mental health supports, justice resources, and other community services. Through timely, trauma-informed support, personalized information, and referrals tailored to each person's needs, the ONE LiNE helps survivors better understand their options, navigate complex systems, and access specialized services when and where they need them. Consistently high-quality outcomes demonstrate the impact of this work, with 99% of callers receiving personalized emotional support, 98% receiving relevant sexual violence information, and 95% receiving appropriate referrals to community services.

Since launching in 2019, Alberta's ONE LiNE for Sexual Violence has reached:

114

Communities
across Alberta

17,400

Contacts



STRATEGIC GOAL 4

Lead Advocacy and Policy Change Activities to Elevate the Needs of Survivors and the Organizations That Support Them

Creating lasting change requires strong relationships, credible evidence, and a unified voice. AASAS works to ensure that the experiences of survivors and the expertise of specialized sexual violence services inform public policy, government decision-making, and system responses.

Influencing System Change

46

Consultations and meetings with Government of Alberta representatives

69

Provincial initiatives informed by AASAS expertise

30

National initiatives advancing sexual violence policy and practice

100%

Stakeholders agreed AASAS provides valuable leadership addressing sexual violence in Alberta

MINISTER OF CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES - SEARLE TURTON WITH ESVA & AASAS



Government Relations and Policy Leadership

Throughout 2025–2026, AASAS continued to build strong relationships with the Government of Alberta through regular engagement with Children and Family Services, Mental Health and Addictions, Public Safety and Emergency Services, Justice, and Arts, Culture and Status of Women. By bringing forward the expertise of Alberta's specialized sexual violence services, AASAS contributed to government initiatives related to sexual violence prevention, counselling services, access to justice, victim services, Alberta's 10-Year Strategy to End Gender-Based Violence, and sustainable funding for specialized sexual violence services.

Through these collaborative relationships, AASAS helped ensure government policies, programs, and investments were informed by evidence, frontline expertise, and the realities experienced by survivors across Alberta. During the reporting period, AASAS participated in 46 consultations and meetings with government representatives, 8 government committee meetings, and 6 meetings with political leaders. This work also supported implementation of the Government's funding commitment to specialized sexual violence services, including the continued rollout of the provincial funding formula developed in partnership with the AASAS membership.

Building Strategic Partnerships

AASAS continued to collaborate with a broad range of provincial and national partners to strengthen Alberta's response to sexual violence. During the year, AASAS participated in 69 provincial initiative meetings and 30 national initiatives, contributing specialized expertise to collaborative work focused on sexual violence prevention, access to justice, workforce wellness, victim services, relationship building, public education, and sexual and gender-based violence policy.

These partnerships ensure Alberta's specialized sexual violence sector contributes to provincial and national conversations while fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and coordinated action across justice, health, education, and community sectors.

Annual stakeholder feedback continues to demonstrate the value of AASAS' provincial leadership. Ninety-six percent of stakeholders reported that collaboration with AASAS increased their understanding of sexual violence in Alberta, while 100% agreed that collaboration with AASAS benefited their organization and that AASAS provides valuable leadership in addressing sexual violence across the province. Stakeholders also highlighted AASAS' ability to convene specialized expertise, connect service delivery with policy development, and ensure government decision-making is informed by evidence and frontline experience.



STRATEGIC GOAL 5

Build and Promote Standards of Excellence in Service Delivery

AASAS is committed to ensuring that specialized sexual violence services across Alberta are evidence-informed, accountable, and responsive to the needs of survivors. Through coordination, evaluation, knowledge sharing, and system development initiatives, AASAS supports excellence across the network.



Facilitating Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration



"These established groups absolutely enhance the work we do and help our team feel supported and understood."

- AASAS Network Survey Respondent

AASAS continued to coordinate multiple communities of practice that bring together professionals from member sexual violence services across the province. These groups create dedicated spaces for professionals to share promising practices, discuss emerging issues, collaboratively problem solve complex service delivery challenges, and support one another in their work. During the year, AASAS coordinated communities of practice for clinical services, specialized police and court support, public education, and rural response, creating regular opportunities for professionals across Alberta to learn from one another and strengthen relationships across the network.

By fostering collaboration, peer support, and shared learning, these communities of practice help members respond to emerging issues, build on evidence-informed practice, and continually strengthen specialized sexual violence services across Alberta.

Demonstrating Impact

During the year, AASAS continued provincial reporting while advancing work to update the Core Services Framework, refine counselling outcome measurement, and coordinate provincial data collection. Together, these initiatives strengthen the sector's ability to measure, demonstrate, and communicate the value and impact of specialized sexual violence services while supporting consistent, evidence-informed reporting across Alberta.

Supporting Excellence in Service Delivery

AASAS also continued to develop the systems, resources, and provincial tools that support excellence in service delivery across Alberta's sexual violence sector. This included developing a province-wide Records Management Guideline, continuing the Integrated Case Management Pilot, and advancing the evidence base that informs AASAS' Core Services Framework. Together, these initiatives provide practical tools, guidance, and shared approaches that support high-quality, survivor-centred services across the province.

STRATEGIC GOAL 6

Cultivate a Membership Network That Is Connected, Supportive, and Collaborative

At the heart of AASAS is a network of specialized sexual violence services working together toward a shared vision of an Alberta free from sexual violence. AASAS is committed to fostering a connected and collaborative membership network that is equipped to respond to emerging challenges, share expertise, and strengthen services for survivors across the province.



Supporting a Strong Provincial Network

"AASAS ensures that the network is strong by providing many opportunities... The network meetings, shared information, opportunities for training and participation enhance what we all do and ensure that survivors are supported in a consistent way throughout much of the province."

Throughout the year, AASAS continued to facilitate opportunities for members to connect, collaborate, and learn from one another. Through regular meetings, working groups, and Communities of Practice, members shared promising practices, identified emerging trends, addressed common service delivery challenges, and collaborated on provincial initiatives ranging from prevention and access to justice to counselling, education, and systems navigation.

During the year, AASAS also completed a comprehensive review of its membership model and governance framework, strengthening the foundation for a sustainable, collaborative, and mission-aligned provincial network.



Collaborative and Strategic Leadership

The Senior Leadership Committee continued to serve as the primary forum for collective leadership and strategic collaboration across Alberta's specialized sexual violence sector. Bringing together Executive Directors and Chief Executive Officers from member services, the committee guided AASAS' strategic priorities while addressing emerging issues affecting specialized sexual violence services, prevention, access to justice, public policy, and survivor support across Alberta.

The knowledge and expertise of member organizations continue to inform AASAS' advocacy, provincial initiatives, and strategic direction, ensuring that Alberta's response to sexual violence reflects the realities experienced by survivors and the professionals who support them.

11

senior
Leadership
Committee
meetings

100%

members agree
AASAS is an
engaged and
effective provincial
network.

100%

members report their
staff increased knowledge,
skills, or ability through
AASAS training,
communities of practice,
and resource sharing.

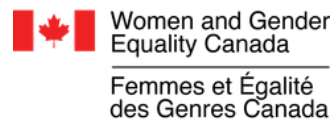
100%

members report AASAS
activities strengthened
their organization's
knowledge and
capacity.

THANK YOU TO OUR Funders & Partners

The progress achieved during 2025–2026 reflects the strength of collaboration across Alberta's specialized sexual violence sector. Together with our membership of specialized sexual violence services, government partners, funders, and community collaborators, AASAS is helping to build a future where survivors have access to specialized supports, communities are equipped to respond effectively to sexual violence, and prevention efforts create lasting change.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the organizations whose investment, partnership, and shared commitment made this work possible. Together, we are advancing an Alberta free from sexual violence.





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