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Premier’s Task Force on Crystal Meth **Terms of Reference**
Summary of Recommendations

See the inside back cover of this report for information about where to go for help.

“ This is a fight we can all win. ”

– participant in consultations

Crystal meth is a highly addictive form of methamphetamine. With a long-lasting high and the sense of overwhelming euphoria it produces, those who use it become quickly addicted and experience more intense effects from prolonged use compared to other drugs.

The use and abuse of crystal meth is on the rise in Alberta. Its prevalence is growing as dealers find new ways to target potential users and sell the drug. It is in our communities, our schools, our families and our workplaces. It knows no boundaries in who it can affect - young or old, man or woman, rich or poor. Its presence, however, is gaining momentum, most notably, among street-involved youth, specific groups within the gay male community and young adults in the party scene.

The menace of crystal meth is real. The damaging effects are rampant and far-reaching. As a province, we can and we must fight back.

In October 2005, the Government of Alberta announced The Premier's Task Force on Crystal Methamphetamines, including community representatives, the private sector and government, to oversee the development of a province-wide, holistic strategy to stop the abuse and negative impacts of crystal meth and methamphetamines in Alberta.

Through a comprehensive consultation process, the Task Force met with groups and individuals across

the province. Six key areas were targeted for in-depth discussions and consultations with key stakeholders, groups and individuals, including youth, Aboriginal people, communities, industry, law enforcement, and healing. In addition to the consultations, we also collected a significant amount of information about crystal meth, its impact on people who use it and their families and friends, and solutions that have been tried in other jurisdictions across Canada and around the world.

As the consultations took place, three overarching themes emerged as the consistent focus.

Prevention Find the best ways of preventing people from starting to use crystal meth in the first place.

Healing and treatment For those who do get caught in the web of addiction, make sure they get access to treatment and longer-term support to help them heal.

Getting tough Go after the drug dealers and drug producers and get crystal meth off the streets.

The recommendations outlined in our report respond directly to the concerns identified under each of those three themes. Our recommendations also call for a comprehensive province-wide strategy supported and funded by the provincial government. Several recommendations focus on prevention, giving our children a healthy start in life, raising awareness about crystal meth, engaging communities and industry leaders

in taking action, and ensuring a coordinated approach in our efforts to stamp out crystal meth. We call for a significant increase in detoxification, treatment and after care support for individuals and families affected by crystal meth. Specific recommendations call for actions to support Aboriginal children, youth, young people and communities affected by crystal meth. We outline specific actions to get crystal meth off our streets and get tough on drug dealers and producers including actions that affect policing, our laws, and our courts. And we also outline steps that can be taken to improve services, provide education and training, and make Alberta a leading centre in crystal meth research.

Our recommendations provide a comprehensive approach to tackling the devastation caused by crystal meth. Now it's time for action.

It will take a great deal of dedication to follow through on the recommendations in our report and to see the real outcomes and tangible results we all want and expect. With the help and dedication of each and every Albertan, we will begin to prevent the use and abuse of crystal meth and other drugs in our communities. Ultimately, we can create a meth-free future for Alberta's children and youth, a positive future that's full of opportunity.

I am Meth

I destroy homes, I tear families apart.
I take your children and that's just the start.

I'm more costly than diamonds, more precious than gold.
The sorrow I bring is a sight to behold.

If you need me, remember I'm easily found.
I live all around you – in schools and in town.

I live with the rich; I live with the poor.
I live down the street, and maybe next door.

I'm made in a lab, but not like you think.
I can be made under the kitchen sink.

In your child's closet, and even in the woods.
If this scares you to death, well it certainly should.

I have many names, but there's one you know best.
I'm sure you've heard of me, my name is crystal meth.

My power is awesome, try me you'll see.
But if you do, you may never break free.

Just try me once and I might let you go.
But try me twice and I'll own your soul.

When I possess you, you'll steal and you'll lie.
You do what you have to – just to get high.

The crimes you'll commit for my narcotic charms.
Will be worth the pleasure you'll feel in your arms.

You'll lie to your Mother, you'll steal from your Dad.
When you see their tears, you should feel sad.

But you'll forget your morals and how you were raised.
I'll be your conscience, I'll teach you my ways.

I take kids from parents and parents from kids.
I turn people from God and separate friends.

I'll take everything from you, your books and your pride.
I'll be with you always – right by your side.

You'll give up everything – your family, your home.
Your friends, your money, then you'll be alone.

I'll take and take, 'til you have nothing more to give.
When I'm finished with you, you'll be lucky to live.

If you try me be warned – this is no game.
If given the chance, I'll drive you insane.

I'll ravish your body, I'll control your mind.
I'll own you completely; your soul will be mine.

The nightmares I'll give you while lying in bed.
The voices you'll hear, from inside your head.

The sweats, the shakes, the visions you'll see.
I want you to know, these are all gifts from me.

But then it's too late and you'll know in your heart.
That you are mine, and we shall not part.

You'll regret that you tried me, they always do.
But you came to me, not I to you.

You knew this would happen, many times you were told.
But you challenged my power, and chose to be bold.

You could have said not, and just walked away.
If you could live that day over, now what would you say?

I'll be your master, you will be my slave.
I'll even go with you, when you go to your grave.

Now that you have met me, what will you do?
Will you try me or not? It's all up to you.

I can bring more misery than words can tell.
Come take my hand, let me lead you to Hell.

– Anonymous