

September 21, 2007

New youth addictions residential treatment centre opens in Lethbridge

Lethbridge... AADAC has opened a new youth residential treatment centre in Lethbridge, expanding its range of services available for young Albertans. The centre adds eight residential detoxification beds for youth who require a specialized approach to substance abuse and gambling treatment.

“With this added support by government, Alberta’s young people will have more opportunities to get on track to leading healthier lives,” said Harvey Cenaiko, MLA Calgary-Buffalo and Chair of AADAC.

As with all Youth Treatment Programs, this eight-bed treatment program is provincial in scope and will offer counselling services to all Alberta families. Similar to the residential programs in Edmonton and Calgary, the Lethbridge program is a 12-week family centered residential treatment program for youth ages 12-17. As well as accessing the resources available in Lethbridge, this program will make use of experiential and wilderness-based counselling to enhance the treatment curriculum.

“This new service enhancement builds on considerable work underway as AADAC follows through on a commitment to Albertans to build safe communities where we can raise healthy children,” said Cenaiko. “This will ensure an increased level of detoxification and residential treatment is available to youth and support for their families who are experiencing problems associated with alcohol and other drugs.”

This program is a component of AADAC’s response to the Alberta Drug Strategy. In total, AADAC operates 56 beds residential detoxification and treatment beds, including:

- 20 court-ordered detoxification and assessment (protective safe house) beds in Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Picture Butte, Red Deer, and Calgary, in support of the *Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act* (PChAD); and,
- 36 voluntary detoxification and treatment beds in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge.

AADAC has treatment programs for individuals of all ages, and information and prevention services are available to every Albertan. Immediate assistance for an addiction concern can be accessed 24 hours a day by calling AADAC’s toll free Help Line at 1-866-33-AADAC (22322). Additional information is available on AADAC’s website at www.aadac.com.

AADAC is an agency of the Government of Alberta and reports to the Minister of Health and Wellness. It operates and funds services that address problems related to alcohol, other drugs and gambling, and undertakes related addictions research.

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