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April 20, 2023,

Open Letter to Mike Ellis, Alberta's Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

Re.: Involuntary Substance Use Care

Dear Minister Ellis,

In a [media briefing](#) on community policing in St. Albert on April 18, 2023, you were asked if people who use drugs should be forced into treatment and you replied, "*All options are on the table*". Furthermore, an [article in the Globe and Mail](#) from April 18 suggests potential legislation on involuntary care, called the "Compassionate Intervention Act".

We understand that having a loved one who is using substances can make parents and others feel desperate and grasp at any straw. We have been there, but our experience, supported by the available evidence, has taught us that the answer is prevention, treatment and harm reduction and not involuntary care.

Here we outline what we have learned and why we are firmly opposed to all forms of involuntary care.

We oppose involuntary care because it is a violation of individual rights.

The [Alberta Mental Health Act](#) already has provisions where a "person with a mental disorder can be apprehended, detained and/or given treatment in a hospital or in the community under specified conditions. It also explains people's rights in these circumstances" (AHS, 2010, p.6).

What you are proposing is that we give law enforcement, healthcare providers and/or families the right to have a person detained constitutes a violation of the health, safety, and rights of people who use drugs and will likely be challenged in court.

We are opposed to involuntary care because to some it will become a death sentence.

Over the past two years, we have had an increase in families joining our organization who have lost loved ones in treatment facilities as well as immediately or in the months after treatment.

Treatment facilities lack oversight and regulation, do not report on critical incidents and outcomes and often operate in ways that are not evidence-based, such as not admitting people on opioid agonist treatment or rapidly tapering individuals who need these medications to be



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stable. In some programs not even the most basic harm reduction measures such as Naloxone are on site. Together with our allies, we asked for more accountability from treatment centres in an [open letter](#) featured in the [blog post](#) by Euan Thomson.

[Opioid Use Disorder Guidelines](#) from the Canadian Research Institute for Substance Misuse (CRISM) “strongly recommend against a treatment strategy involving withdrawal management alone without plans for transition to long-term evidence-based addiction treatment (e.g., OAT), since this approach has been associated with nearly universal relapse and, subsequently, elevated risk of unsafe drug use and/or overdose” (CRISM, 2018, p. 12).

Based on the approaches present in most treatment facilities in Alberta involuntary care would mean that people are forcefully placed in environments where they are at an additional risk of harm and death.

We are opposed to involuntary care because those of us who have tried this approach experienced deeply traumatizing outcomes.

Families who tried involuntary treatment using the [Alberta Protection of Children in Care](#) (PChAD) program experienced alienation from the children, trauma and in too many cases the loss of their child. This was addressed in the 2017/18 [special investigative report of the Alberta Child Advocate](#) which concluded: “While this allows for abstinence and safety in the short term, it does not provide the necessary intervention and treatment that youth require” (Alberta Child Advocate, 2018, p.6)

MSTH Alberta advocate and retired Board Director Angela Welz explains her family’s experience in a [blog](#) entitled “The Trouble with PChad.”.

I forced my daughter into detox and treatment not once, but twice because that's all I had. It didn't work and further alienated her from us because she was extremely angry at what we had done. She died alone from toxic drug poisoning in 2016 at the age of 18.

We oppose *involuntary* care because people who seek *voluntary* care already face long wait times.

Why focus on involuntary care when voluntary care is unattainable for so many?

Time and time again families tell us about loved ones turned away at detox and about facing wait times of weeks, often months into a residential treatment program that meets their loved



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one's needs, especially for those who are on opioid agonist treatment, which according to [CRISM](#) is the gold standard for opioid use.

Our loved ones who ask to go to treatment are discharged into homelessness from emergency departments and active treatment hospitals without regard for their health and well-being. People who are able to get into residential treatment face housing instability and a lack of recovery support upon release, causing many to use it again. People who have experienced trauma and other mental health issues lack access to mental health services, while individuals and families struggle to pay for psychologists and trauma care out of pocket.

My son and my family have continually been let down, stigmatized and traumatized by the so-called recovery-oriented system of care. On numerous occasions, he has been discharged into homelessness with no support while continually being criminalized for just surviving. Even as I write this I have been left to detox my child on my own, advocate for services, and be told to wait long periods for a treatment space and find housing and other services.

When my son's drug use began I asked for help. The only option I was given was the PCHAD program. My child was detained twice under the act. What that program did was break my son's trust in me and the system. It started a cycle of criminalization, trauma and abuse from a system that was supposed to help and protect him. It has taken many years to rebuild that trust between my son and me, and what repaired that relationship is harm reduction. It has given him back his right to choose and build his own recovery, all while navigating all the roadblocks and trauma this "recovery-oriented" system creates.
Angie Staines, MSTH Board Candidate, Edmonton, AB

We are opposed to involuntary care because it is reminiscent of colonial practices that have killed, harmed and traumatized indigenous people and other racialized and equity-deserving populations.

Indigenous and other racialized people are disproportionately affected by the drug poisoning crisis. They are hospitalized at higher rates, die at higher rates and are incarcerated at higher rates than the provincial average.

Involuntary treatment is reminiscent of the myriad of ways in which Indigenous people, in particular, have had to withstand and confront colonial violence at every turn. It is a continuation of the displacement and removal of Indigenous peoples from their own territories and the subjugation of colonial control through laws and policies, such as Indian residential schools, child welfare apprehensions, and forced sterilization.



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Two and a half months before my son passed away on December 19, 2022, he expressed a desire to seek treatment for his alcohol and drug use. Despite many attempts by me and other members of my family to implore him to seek treatment, he had always previously refused. I believed, at that time, that abstinence-based treatment was our only option. I was unable to secure him a treatment bed at a critical point in his life because of excessive wait times. I did not have the financial ability to find him a spot at a private facility. We had run out of options, and my son continued with his previous alcohol and drug use, which tragically resulted in his death a short time later.

Sarah Auger, MSTH Advocate, Edmonton, AB

We are opposed to involuntary care because the research tells us it does not work and that it is harmful.

Research on involuntary care highlights the violation of individual rights, the risk of further harm being caused, such as relapse and death, and the lack of evidence on the efficacy of these approaches. Pertinent studies are linked in the quotes and here are some of their findings.

...patients discharged to involuntary commitment directly from the hospital universally relapsed and experienced significant medical morbidity during the first year following their release. This study adds to a growing literature recognizing the harms of involuntary commitment for substance use disorder ([Messinger et. al, 2023](#))

There is limited scientific literature evaluating compulsory drug treatment. Evidence does not, on the whole, suggest improved outcomes related to compulsory treatment approaches, with some studies suggesting potential harms. Given the potential for human rights abuses within compulsory treatment settings, non-compulsory treatment modalities should be prioritized by policymakers seeking to reduce drug-related harms ([Werb et.al, 2015](#))


Specifically, we argue that the infringement of autonomy and privacy associated with involuntary intervention ... is not currently justified on the grounds of a lack of evidenced benefits and a risk of significant harm ([Udwadia et. al, 2020](#))

We call for the halt to any further provisions on involuntary care and ask for immediate actions¹:

1. Invest in robust access to a range of voluntary treatment options, evidence-based and accountable.

¹ Adapted from [Involuntary Treatment: Criminalization by another name](#) by Pivot Legal Society (2023)



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2. Repeal legislation that governs the Narcotic Transition Service and make regulated alternatives to toxic street drugs widely available to people in need of this option.
3. Eliminate police involvement under the Alberta Mental Health Act and create civilian crisis-response teams.
4. Prevent the expansion of legislation that broadens apprehension criteria to include overdose.
5. Eliminate any form of involuntary and/or coercive treatment.
6. Repeal all legislation and regulations that are used to disproportionately target Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities.
7. Repeal all legislation and regulations that are used to target people who use drugs and disabled people. There is already existing legislation that permits forced treatment against these groups. It is violent and unjust and must be eliminated.

We call for urgent action based on these recommendations to save the lives of our loved ones. The alternative means too many families will mourn too many people gone too soon.

Signed by authors,

Petra Schulz, Cofounder and Chair of the Board,
Angela Staines, Founder of 4B Harm Reduction Society and incoming Director, MSTH
Angela Welz, Retired Board of Director, MSTH
Sarah Auger, Regional Advocate, MSTH



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And these individuals and organizations

Amber Jensen	Shaughnessy, AB	
Kinnon Ross	Edmonton, AB,	Registered Nurse
Ginetta Salvalaggio	Edmonton, AB	MD, MSc, CCFP(AM) N/A
Rhonda Watt	Wetaskiwin Alberta	RN For Erik Garthus (son)
Samantha Ginter	Airdrie, AB	For: Riley Walz (McNight) - 1991-2021
Kate Colizza	Calgary, AB	MD
Katie Upham	Salmon River, NS	For Andrew, 2019
Cheryl Mack	Edmonton, AB	MD
Chris Scanlan	Edmonton, AB	LPN
Sarah Auger	Edmonton, Alberta	M.Ed. For Lakotah Reimer (1991-2022)
Jody Plaineagle	Lethbridge, AB	MSTH
Angela Vos	Ontario	MSTH For Jordan Sheard
Lori Hatfield	Lethbridge, AB	MSTH
Ruth Fox	Ottawa, Ontario	For my son
Kym Porter	Medicine Hat, AB	MSTH, MHDC for Neil Balmer 1984-2016
Chris Gallaway	Alberta Friends of Medicare	
Tawnya Viznei	Edmonton, AB	RN for Ryan Viznei
Kari Ursulescu	MEDICINE HAT, AB	for Riley Earl Jonathan Dawson
Edward Henley	Medicine Hat, AB	
Patty Wilson	Calgary, AB	Nurse Practitioner
Rebecca Saah	Calgary, AB	University of Calgary
Eva Himka	Edmonton, AB	To many loved ones have been lost
Tyla Savard	Grande Prairie, AB	MSTH
Willi McCorrison	Kindersley, SK	Director, MSTH
Emily Bodechon	Saint John, NB	Moms Stop the Harm
Jorja Green	Spruce Grove, AB	
Diane MacNaughton	Redcliff, AB	MSTH
Kaylyn Juchli	Edmonton, AB	RSW
Tatianna O'Donnell	Calgary, AB	For Adam 2020
Karen Drynan	Parkland County, AB	
Cynthia Dea	Edmonton AB	For Kelley-Anne Jolicoeur
John Sumption	Claresholm, AB	
Linda Jones	Sidney B.C.	
Tanya Hornbuckle	Edmonton, AB	For Joel Wolstenholme 1991-2022
Shelley Sauvageau	Stony Plain AB	Auntie of Ken Horst Jr.
Kristina Sobolewski	Red Deer, AB	
Alexandra Chiew	Calgary, AB	
Irene Brown	Drumheller, AB	For David



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Rebecca Pilon	Edmonton, Alberta	For Nick Chillibeck, For Tim Postma
Stacey Denton	Bamfield, BC	RN, BsN,
Reginald Harrison	Edmonton, AB	For Adam
Faye Gray	St Albert, AB	MSTH For Lindsey Gray 1982-2015
Lilly Selby	Edmonton, AB	
Ethan Shi	Calgary, AB	
Carolyn Bateman	Cornwall, Ontario	For Hardynn Bateman July 2022
Ben Pike	Edmonton, AB	
Bob Morgan	Calgary, AB	
Audi Lewis	Victoria, BC	Registered Nursing Student; HR Outreach Worker
David Hedmann	Calgary, AB	David Hedmann
Lisa Reinbolt	Edmonton	For Kyle Reinbolt 1995-2016
Cathy McFawn	Edmonton AB	MSTH For my son Nick 2021
Lorie-Ann Matechuk	Calgary, AB	For Joshua
Dorene	Red Deer County	MSTH for Christopher 2021 February
Felice Lund	Boyle, AB	Teacher for David/2016
Corey Ranger	Duncan, BC	President of Harm Reduction Nurses Association
Harm Reduction Nurses Association Canada		
Euan Thomson	Calgary, Alberta	Ph.D.
EACH+EVERY: Businesses for Harm Reduction Calgary, Alberta		
Angela Harter	Edmonton, Alberta	For Megan Latter December 2018
Marlo Cottrell	Edmonton, AB	Advocate- Board member at CPPN
Jamie Livingston	Halifax, Nova Scotia	Associate Professor
Darrin Thompson	Lacombe	Content Creation Talking Truth With ADC NA
Ruth Kelly	St Albert	Moms Stop the Harm
Rachael Horning	WI	Pain Patient Advocate
Rylan Kafara	Edmonton, AB	
Marianna Balogh	Calgary	
Odette Lloyd	Whitecourt AB	
Alexander Dowsey	Edmonton Alberta	
Evelyn Vi	Okotoks, Alberta	
Aaron Bailey MSc	Vancouver, BC	Research Assistant, Canadian Institute for
Substance Use Research		
Cara Johnston	Calgary, AB	Research Assistant, MSTH
Carole van Herwaarden	Edmonton Alberta	
Joan Hutton	Ponoka AB	For Justin 2017
Shelley Erickson	Edmonton, AB	
Heather Hobbs	Victoria, BC	RSW in honour of Spike & many more
Judy Westcott	Lethbridge AB	



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Shauna Neuman	Edmonton, Alberta	For Christine Goshko 1998-2021
Diane St John	Edmonton, Alberta	For Jason St John 1974 - 2021
Haleigh Hinchliffe	Edmonton, AB	Mat Wagner 1991-2021
Kylie Halas	Calgary, AB	AHS
David Palmer	Edmonton, AB	Parent
Nazret Russon	Edmonton, Alberta	Patient and Family Advisor, council member AHS
Joy Myers Piske	Narol, Manitoba	
Kendra Walz-Parker	Red Deer, AB	for Riley Allan Walz (1991 - 2021)
Barbara Boulton	Edmonton, Alberta	Registered Psychologist
Katherine Kolasa	Edmonton. AB	Pharmacist
Nicole Orji	Edmonton, AB	
Christine Funk	Edmonton, AAB	Graduate student, UVic for Kailynn, August 2021
Kim Jordan	Calgary, AB	
Leslie McBain	Edmonton AB	Moms Stop the Harm Jordan Miller
Dyna Tuytel	Calgary, AB	
JoAnn St. John	Lethbridge	My son Brent
Helen Reid	Medicine Hat AB	
Terri Forbis	Lethbridge, Alberta	Brent Sorge 2021-03-04
Paula Bosse	Thorsby, Alberta	Librarian
Kaylynn Purdy	Edmonton, Alberta	Resident Doctor For Blake, 1986-2021
Ashley Young	Edmonton, AB	
Meera Grover	Calgary, AB	
Mark Scott	Calgary	Addiction Medicine Physician
Quinn Tilling	Edmonton AB	
Bryce Ward	Edmonton, AB	4B Harm reduction (Harm reductionist)....Uof A
Researcher.,Boyle	Street	supportive housing Addiction and mental health support person
Jason 1979-1995		
Rebecca Penn	London Ontario	KTE Specialist, HR and drug policy for Raffi Balian
Elicia Weaver	Edmonton, AB	
Dr. Brandy Love	Edmonton, AB	Resident Physician, University of Alberta
Azra Panjwani	Edmonton, AB	MSc Student, CSSDP Edmonton Co-Chair
Kacie Stirrett	Victoria, BC & Calgary, AB	Social Worker There are too many
Diane	Lethbridge, AB	
Jackie Mann	Calgary Alberta	Physician Brian Petit
Ruth Kelly	St Albert, AB	Moms Stop the Harm
Sherri Lewis	Edmonton, Alberta	Addiction Counsellor
Jared Benson	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	
Michael Lee	Edmonton AB	Nurse Practitioner
Sophie Heggart	Edmonton AB	



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Sabarina Short Spruce Grove Alberta
Isabel Born Calgary, AB
Bailey Lohmann Edmonton, AB
Loranna G. Zatorski Newbrook Alberta
Michelle Hansen Red Deer, AB
Joyce Bunge Oliver B. C. MSTH for Joe Bauman 1975-2020
Lisa Johnson Edmonton Business Owner For Adelaide Joan Farrell
Linda Pekrul Strathmore, AB
Joyce Bunge Oliver, B.C. MSTH for Joe Bauman 1975-2020
Janelle Knoop Edmonton, Alberta
Angela Wallace Calgary, Alberta Project Management
Erika Gilroy Grande Prairie, AB Northreach Society
Christine Nayler Barrie, Ontario Co-founder and Director of Ryan's Hope, Ontario Advocate
, MSTH For my son Ryan Nayler December 7, 1985-November 29, 2020
Tom Nayler Barrie, Ontario Co-founder Ryan's Hope My son Ryan
Van Nguyen Calgary, Alberta MD
Ren Challacombe Waterloo ON, formerly of Calgary, AB
Julie deHaan Edmonton, AB
Aiden Cottrell-Callbeck Edmonton, AB MSc For my friend, Ben Lepage (1997-2022)
Violeta Maniotakis Red Deer, AB
Morgan Magnuson Vulcan, AB RN, MPH, University of Lethbridge
Laura Collison Edmonton, AB
Shania Klugh Edmonton, AB Frontline worker
Emily Huzil Regina, SK Addiction Counsellor
Rylee Los Edmonton, Alberta
Tyler Marshall Edmonton, AB Postdoctoral Research Fellow, UofA for Jared Neal
Marylee Stephenson Calgary, AB
Charlotte Foley Edmonton, Alberta Technician Dane January 28, 2022
Jay Smart Edmonton, Alberta Journeyman Welder Dane January 28, 2022
Meagan Parsons Calgary Registered Nurse
Karen Huggins Calgary, AB MSTH for Nathan - 17/Feb/2016
Orissa Shima Morinville AB
Eva Riley St. Albert, Alberta
Kimberley Bushby Calgary, Alberta
Brandon green Fort McMurray, AB
Lorna Thomas Edmonton, AB Co-Founder- Moms Stop The Harm Alex 1987-2012
Dawn Berg Wetaskiwin, AB Justin Kijewski (1985-2019)
Amy Mendenhall Red Deer, AB Crisis worker
Samantha Molen Edmonton, AB Social Worker



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Alyson Winkelar	Edmonton
Arlene Last Kolb	Winnipeg, MB Overdose Awareness Manitoba and MSTH for Jessie
Dara Barnhardt	Edmonton, AB
Caylie Gnyra	Edmonton, AB
Aaron Barnhardt	Edmonton, AB
Ashley Miles	Red deer, AB
Benjamin Wilkins	Sherwood Park
Heather Marcoux	Red Deer, Alberta
Joanne	Victoria BC for Travis
Marla Merkley	Red Deer For Isaac Lee 2001-2021
Michelle Robinson	Calgary, Alberta Sahtu Dene Too many Indigenous folkx lost to name.
Dallas R Minion	Taber, Alberta For Garret (1986- 2015)
Lindsey High	Edmonton Social worker
Emilie Hou	Canmore AB Public servant
Heather Lucier	Calgary, AB The Alex and Sunrise Healing Lodge Society
Giovanna Rosal	Edmonton, Alberta Carleton University
Carrie Potter	Swift Current, SK Design + Community Care, SHE RECOVERS Foundation
Genevieve Eggen,	Edmonton, Alberta RN
Friday Bailey	Terrace BC Educator
Evan Watson	Calgary, AB (Treaty 7) Medical Student & Sociologist
Francesca Turner	Calgary, Alberta Administrative support for AHS I have lost many. As we all have to the war on drugs.
Karen Bjerrisgaard	Calgary, AB
Lynn Malkin	Calgary, Alberta Accounts Payable Analyst, for Bryan Malkin
Rick Malkin	Calgary, AB For Bryan Malkin
Justine Loffler	Calgary, AB
Natasha Trochymchuk	Parkland County, Alberta
Sean Trochymchuk	Parkland County, AB
Brian Watson	Edmonton, AB
Dana Watson	Edmonton, AB
Christine Jensen	Calgary, AB
Frank Frey	Calgary, Alberta
Berna Stewart	Calgary AB For Curtis Allen
Deborah Watson	Red Deer, Alberta For Kate Wales 2008 and Jordan Shindler 2020
Kelsey Anderson	Calgary AB
Chloe Yakymyshyn	Edmonton, Alberta
Jordyn Birnie-Browne	Edmonton, Alberta
Julie Kirsch	Calgary, Alberta
Sandy Wright	Edmonton, Alberta For Colin



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Janessa McBride	Calgary, AB	Social Work Student	Too many clients to name
Caroline Smigielski	Edmonton, AB		For Pamela Letourneau 17/11-2022
Vienna Hawrysiw	Sydney, Nova Scotia		
Caitlin Macnab	Edmonton, AB		
Amber Maksymetz	Calgary, Alberta		
Annie Storey	Sechelt, BC	MSTH Treasurer,	For Alex 2021
Christine O'Reilly	Calgary, AB	MD	For Catherine (1987-2023)
Bridget Johansson	Calgary, AB	RN, BScN	
Christine Anne Garbutt	Englehart, ON		8 loved ones..too many to name
Emily Storvold	Edmonton, AB		
Sarah Barteaux	Jasper, AB		Masters in Psychology Student
Beth Capper	Edmonton, AB		
Vanessa Mulvey	Edmonton Alberta	Medical assistant	for Shawn (2016) and many others
Mikaila Hildebrand	Saskatoon SK		For Julian Malcolm Hazen-Babchuk Aug. 22, 2021
Cat Schick	Calgary	Reconciliation Action Group/Settlers' Book Club	
Corinne King	Spruce Grove, AB	Retired	Corey Kapalka
LaVonne Rideout	Lethbridge	MSTH for Brock	1985-2015
Kara Fleming	Victoria, BC		For Jim Pizzigrilli
Julian Schulz	Edmonton, AB	Candidate,	Edmonton-Glenora, Green Party of Alberta
			For Danny 1989-2014
Nickie Nikolaou	Calgary, AB		For Zoe Welz (1998-2016)
Juliana Montoya	Edmonton Alberta		
Erin Alexander	Edmonton, Alberta	Education & Employment Advisor	
Chad Mottershead	Spruce Grove	City of Edmonton	
Sharon G. Whiting	Calgary	Retired	
Lisa St Jean	Medicine Hat		
Ruth Thangiah	Edmonton, Alberta		
Jenn McCrindle	Alberta		Too many to count
Alyssa Pretty	Edmonton	Friends of Medicare	
Marliss Taylor	Edmonton	RN, BScN	
Meara Kirwin	Edmonton, Alberta		
Kira Conroy	Sherwood Park	Youth Worker,	Edmonton John Howard Society
KoKo Neon	Edmonton AB		
Natashia Taylor	Edmonton		
Kayla Riske	Edmonton, AB	Addiction Counsellor	Robin Messinger
Maya Riley	Edmonton AB		for Shawn, Rae Lynn, Justeen
Laura Pope	Calgary, AB	RSW	
Patrick Black	St.Albert	Nurse	Dylan
Alannah Price	Edmonton, AB	Project Accountant	



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Alaina Thursby	Edmonton, AB Youth Worker	
Michelle Kruhlak	Edmonton, AB Fpr Jeremy	
Kenzie Gordon	Edmonton AB	
James Prothero	Vancouver B.C.	Dorie B
Taylor Bronson	Medicine Hat, AB	Mental Health Therapist, AHS
Patricia Johnston	Tofield, Alberta	
Paxton Bach	Vancouver, BC MD, MSc, FRCPC, FASAM,	Clinical Assistant Professor,
UBC Dept of Medicine		
Kim Bronson	Medicine Hat, AB	General manager
Shawn Procter	Calgary, AB	
Wendy Fyfe	Calgary, AB	
Angela Welz	Edmonton, AB	Moms Stop The Harm For Zoe Welz (1998-2016)
Jenn McCrindle	Rural Alberta	For way too many
Susan Quinn	Calgary, Alberta	
Cheryl Armstrong	North Saanich, BC	Non practicing RN
Laura Reklow	Edmonton, AB	Registered Nurse
Darren Meek	Carstairs, AB	
Miriam Dewar	Edmonton, AB	Social Worker For, Aaron Lagrelle, Toby Hikhaitok
and Tommy Hagen		
Brenda McBain	Edmonton, Alberta	For Jordan Miller
Darlana Treloar	Powell River, BC	PPS Worker, MSTH for Sean Robert Treloar 27
Jess Tollestrup	Lethbridge, Alberta	
Kelsie Wert	Nanaimo, BC	Social services student/worker
Nancy Peters	Edmonton, AB	for my daughters dad 1984-2016
Kelly	Strathmore Alberta	Student
Rachel Pike	Nanaimo, BC	
Barbara Sutcliffe	Dunnville, ON	Jesse, Ryleigh, Daniel
Maria Ellert	Calgary, AB	Jesse
Kaitlyn Fenelon	Edmonton, Alberta	
Monica Simpson	Airdrie, Alberta	Abilities Specialist
Sharon Hebert	Sherwood Park, AB	MLT - Alberta Precision Laboratories
Chey Myers	Caledonia	NORS for 1 person Every 11 mins
Joanna Farley	Calgary, AB	Business Owner
Sarah Stockburger	Vancouver, BC	
Hayley Hobbs	Edmonton, AB	
Brooke Sperling	Lethbridge, Alberta	Registered Nurse Too many to name
Beth Brock	Scarborough, Ontario	
Rowan Ferrie	Powell River, BC	N/A
Ruth Lepine	Calgary, AB	For Stacey Lepine Nov 14, 2021



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mary duncan	Hamilton, ON	RN for Alexander "Sasha" Longwell
Jodi Schommer	Edmonton Alberta	RN
McCoy Gerl	Saskatoon, SK	
Lauren cameron	Calgary alberta	AAWEAR
Hannah McSorley	Vancouver, BC	For Michaela, 2023; for Liam, still with us
Sara Smith	Edmonton, AB	
Jodi Cunningham	Vernon, BC	Pharmacist
Rebecca Yeo	Edmonton, Alberta	
Irene Wood	Edmonton, Alberta	
Karen McGowan	Calgary, AB	Retired Accountant For Mateo
Jennifer Weih	Vancouver, BC	For Reneé 1993- 2020
Jonnette Watson	Hamilton Calgary	Professor Emerita, Law
Joyce Bunge	Oliver B.C.	For Joseph Bauman 1975-2020
sydney boa	Calgary Alberta	Street Cats For Robin Boa 1966-2021
Elsa Parsons	Comox, BC	Registered Nurse
Sara Neilson	Calgary AB	Social Worker For Jord Stein, Cole Gaehring
Ruth Kelly	St Albert, AB	Moms Stop the Harm
Serena Navarro	Calgary, AB	For James Raven
Jean Bota	Red Deer	Crime Prevention Practitioner
Dave Degenstein	Milk River, Alberta	For Devan
Theresa Hoiles	Calgary, AB	MSTH For Noah 1998-2022
Sherry Dudinsky	Canmore, AB	
Caleb Henry	Edmonton, AB	
Josalyn Head	Edmonton, AB	Administrative Assistant, AHS, For Patrick 2014
Gillian Kolla	Toronto, ON	PhD
Brenda MacNeil	Vegreville, AB	Retired Teacher/Social Worker
Jessica Lee	Calgary, AB	
Christine Howell	Edmonton, Alberta	Registered Nurse
Heidi Reinke	Lethbridge, AB	Strategic Engagement Coordinator
Hailey Fetter	Edmonton, Ab	
Leia pedulla	Calgary, AB	
Dani Pierson	Sexsmith AB	
Olivia Birth	Calgary, AB	
Bryden McCoy	Edmonton	Health Program Coordinator, Métis Nation of AB
Maia Mudric	Edmonton, AB	
Troylana Manson	Kamloops BC	Retired Kindergarten teacher for Aaron manson 1994-2021
Rachel	Burnaby BC	
Reyna Wiberg	Edmonton, AB	
Tammy Chan	Edmonton, Alberta	



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Geraldine Johnston Victoria, BC For Paul Vivier
Shelley Dedio Wetaskiwin, AB MSTH For Jason and Michael
Kelli Stajduhar Victoria, BC Professor and Canada Research Chair, UVic
Marianne McNanny Hamilton, ON
Christy Nakamura Calgary, AB Hope Homes Case Manager
Carly Tre Van and a, BC
Taylor Masterson Rochester New York Executive Director - nonprofit for Bobbie Campbell
Barbara Fornssler Saskatoon, SK Assistant Professor, School of Public Health, USK
Megan Steel St. Albert, AB
Nick Nikolaou Edmonton, AB For Zoe Welz (1998-2016)
Tyler Summerton Calgary, Alberta Electrical SubForman
Karla Carcam Coaldale, Alberta Marketer
Jane McCormick Parksville, BC Jeff 10/22/2021
Shandi Thachuk Calgary, AB
Heather Morris Edmonton Postdoctoral Fellow, UofA
Erin Gibson Surrey, BC
Orren Anderson Grande Prairie, Alberta Mental health and addictions outreach,
CMHA NW for Lyric, Amy, Sébastien, Brittany, Rhoda, and many more
Jonelle C Edmonton Ab Recovery Coach/HELP navigator
Alexa Van Volkenburg Saskatoon, K
Lindsay Loset Grande Prairie, Alberta Community Based Health & STBBI Program
Manager - Northreach Society
Alison Warnock Lethbridge, Alberta
Dennis Demeria Edmonton, Alberta For Michael
Amanda Gear Grande Prairie, AB
Amy Bratland Hythe Alberta
Vikki Reynolds Vancouver BC Vikki Reynolds PhD RCC Clinical Supervisor
Paula Gerlitz LaGlace, Alberta Program Coordinator
Shirley Meyer Calgary, Alberta
Richard Schulz Edmonton, AB Professor, UofA, for Daniel Schulz 1989-2014
Joel Sturrock Lloydminster Alberta Drew Sturrock
Erin McKlusky Calgary, Alberta Articling Student for Paige, 2021
Dhorea Ramanula West Kelowna Founder of Hemi's Holistic Healing Society-
Recovery House for women Hemi Ramanula 2021
Gregory Bell Edmonton, Alberta
Judy Oberlin Sherwood Park, Alberta
Kate Lumsdon Victoria bc
Annysa Baldeo Edmonton, Alberta Substance Use Support Worker for Elizabeth,
Brandon



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Erinn Lowe	Grande Prairie, AB	Business Owner
Alison Harris	Ayr, Ontario	Shelter support worker
Jane Clendinning	Calgary, AB	TWC Kitchener
Kristi Hiebert	Calgary, Alberta	Concerned citizen for Brendan
Moriah Scott	Edmonton, Alberta	
Serena Eagland	Vancouver, BC	
Scott Bernier	Calgary, AB	Entertainer
Morgan	Canada	
Scott Charlton	Edmonton, AB	
Becky Kundert	Airdrie, Alberta	
Naja Kassir	Montreal, QC	
Jimilee Ayotte	Stettler AB	
Hailey Hogg	Calgary Alberta	
Sylvana Mastroianni	Chestermere, AB	Bereaved Mother, For David
Siovhana Lawlor	Edmonton	Social worker
Faye West	Edmonton	
Kindra Scott	Edmonton, Alberta	
Anna Mae Alexander	Calgary, AB	Not passed. But in long-term care from her OD
Sheila Dickson	Sherwood Park, AB	MSTH (Kelly) 1984-2018
Sarah Whidden	Vancouver	Project Manager Dave Appsey
Vanessa Welz	Edmonton, Alberta	For Zoe (1998-2016)
Heather Ferguson	Grande Prairie, AB	Nurse
Justin Piché, PhD	Ottawa, Ontario	Associate Professor, Criminology, University of Ottawa
Lindsey Gagnon	Langdon, Alberta	Mental health and addictions peer support
Jennifer Crinion	Warkworth, Ontario	
Douglas Taylor	Spruce Grove	Humanitarian
Lucie Johnston	Victoria, BC	
Sam Spady	Edmonton Alberta	PhD for Steve
Barbara Brady-Fryer	Edmonton	Jason Fryer
Nina Morris	Calgary, Alberta	
Elizabeth French	Edmonton	Human
Dr. Stasha Huntingford	Calgary, AB	Registered Social Worker So much loss
Jennifer Boulton	Westbank BC	Mental health and addictions social worker in shelter services
Lewis Cunningham	Marina Steer, Shawn Bux, several clients	
Hannah Jackson	Grande Prairie, Alberta	RN
Lori Massé	Toronto	Social Worker
Tomi Turnbull	Calgary	Private concerted citizen for Alyssa 1988 - 2022
	Stettler	Social Worker



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Robert Skelly Calgary, AB
Franki Harrogate Edmonton Registered Provisional Psychologist for Stacey and
Madonna
Susan Adair-Wolf Edmonton Alberta
Lindsay Wolf-Owczarek Edmonton, AB Registered Psychologist
Andy Holt Fort Saskatchewan, AB Doctor of Pharmacology
Heather Raymond Edmonton Retired
Cindy Andrew Colwood, BC
Leanne Ritter Calgary, AB for Tyson Behm
Erin Forbes Edmonton, AB
Nathan Crompton Vancouver, BC Organizer, VANDU
Ray Corbiere Edmonton For Joshua 25 , 2021
Carrie Low Halifax, Nova Scotia
Lorie McCormick Corona, California (formerly of London, Ontario) The Michael
McCormick, Foundation Michael McCormick
Skye Perry Edmonton, AB T6E 2N1
Percival (Percy) E. Odynak, KC Edmonton, Alberta
Tajja McLuckie Courtenay BC Brandon Johnson 1989-2016
Marguerite De Freitas Calgary, BA
Susan Clarke Fort Macleod, Alberta Registered Nurse
Maggie Kuo Vancouver, BC Public Health for Mark P.
Harriet Huestis Edmonton, AB
Brenda Mailer Seabright, Nova Scotia (born in Stettler, Alberta) Life coach
Marian Donly Calgary, AB Social Worker
Stacey Schaaf Edmonton, Alberta Licensed Practical Nurse for Tyrone
Jennifer Vanderschaeghe Red Deer County, AB
Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP) Edmonton Edmonton, AB
Alex Naylor Calgary, AB Social Worker
Jacqueline L'Hirondelle Edmonton, AB, Social Worker For Alexander L'Hirondelle 2021
Martin Girard Victoria, BC
Joan Farkas Calgary, AB Social Worker
Holly Mathias E dmonton, AB University of Alberta
Tara Collins Calgary Alberta U of C
Niki Ottosen Victoria The Backpack project Victoria BC Trevor 2016
Sacha Medine Vancouver, BC Clinical Counsellor
Danielle Annable Mirror AB Community Support Worker Logan Barritt, Cole Annable
Alida Fernhout Surrey, BC Registered nurse Dozens and dozens of patients
Shauna Penny St Albert, AB
Corinne Woods Prince George, BC For my son Tony 1995 - 2018.



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Rhonda Tremblay	Edmonton, AB	For Trevor and ALL of our loved ones
Agnes Chen	Calgary AB	Starlings Community
Kloey Cook	Thunder Bay Ontario	Starlings Community Nova
Melody Provost	Calgary, AB	
Dawn Berg	Wetaskiwin, AB	For Justin 1985-2019
Jo-Lue Bloomer	Vancouver BC	MSTH
Charlie LeDoux	Shellbrook, SK	Student in Drugs and Addiction/Criminology
Cassidy VanderZee	Edmonton, AB	Registered Nurse For Sherri
Leslie McBain	Pender Island BC	Moms Stop the Harm Jordan Miller
Antoinette Gravel-Ouellette	Rivers Manitoba	MSTH STCA Program Coordinator
Sharon Siba	Edmonton	For Carol, Gerry
Anna Lafreniere	Edmonton	
Laura DeFraine	Calgary, Alberta	
Bethlehem Strom	Edmonton, Alberta	
Katrina Kloster	Edmonton, Alberta	