

News Release For immediate release November 26, 2015

## CARRT celebrates 20 years serving Edmonton's children and families

November 26 proclaimed 'Child at Risk Response Day' in Edmonton

**EDMONTON**, **AB** – On Thursday, November 26, the Zebra Child Protection Centre in partnership with Edmonton Police Service and Alberta Human Services will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Child at Risk Response Team (CARRT). To commemorate two decades of service to Edmonton's children, Mayor Iveson has proclaimed November 26, 2015 as 'Child at Risk Response Day' in Edmonton.

"Both the Zebra Child Protection Centre and CARRT operate on a promise to the community to support children and youth who have been victims of abuse," said Bob Hassel, CEO of Zebra Child Protection Centre. "Through our support programs and model of collaborative care, the Zebra Centre is fully equipped to create an environment where children who have suffered abuse feel safe to tell their stories."

Operating out of the Zebra Child Protection Centre since its opening in 2002, CARRT now employs six teams comprised of one Edmonton Police Service officer and Edmonton Region Child and Family Services social worker. Children who have been the subject of CARRT investigations and apprehensions often come through the Zebra Centre to begin the reporting and healing process. In 2014, 1,158 children were supported by the Zebra Child Protection Centre. Accused conviction rates have increased dramatically since the Centre opened in 2002.

## **About CARRT**

On October 8, 1995, the Edmonton Police Service and what is now Edmonton Region Child and Family Services began an integrated approach to child protection and community policing. Pairing a social worker with an Edmonton Police Service constable, CARRT provides front line service for investigations involving children at risk. One of the main goals of each CARRT investigation is to improve a child's immediate environment and provide services to the affected families that aim to educate the caregivers and improve their ability to raise their children.

Learn more about the #ZebraCentre story by following us on social media:









Founded in 2002, The Zebra Child Protection Centre is a non-profit, community based organization that was established to improve the lives of children who have suffered abuse. The first of its kind in Canada, the Zebra Centre has created the model for a collaborative approach to dealing with allegations of abuse. Bringing together a multi-disciplinary team of caring professionals – child protection investigators, police officers, prosecutors, donors and volunteers – to an environment that protects the child and uses all their collaborative wisdom to lend strength, the Zebra Centre is the place where 'kids can tell'. For more information, please visit our website.

## **Media Contact**

**Lauren Andrews** 

Communications Specialist Zebra Child Protection Centre

Cell: 780.217.1245

Email: <u>lauren.andrews@zebracentre.ca</u>