

**News Release**  
For immediate release

**June 16, 2016**

## **Province invests more than \$1.7 million towards advocating for child abuse survivors**

*Provincial funding helps Zebra Centre respond to increase in demand for services*

**EDMONTON, AB** – On Thursday, June 16, Human Services Minister Irfan Sabir announced an investment of more than \$1.7 million to seven community-based organizations that work towards the awareness, prevention and response to child abuse in the community. As a benefactor of this funding, the Zebra Child Protection Centre will receive \$400,000 over three years to increase capacity and serve as a regional training and development hub for future Child Advocacy Centres (CACs) in northern Alberta.

*“Our government is committed to strengthening and expanding supports for survivors of child sexual abuse through the work of the Zebra Child Protection Centre. It is my hope that through this investment we can better support survivors, wherever they live, so they may heal and rebuild their lives toward a healthier future.”* Irfan Sabir, Minister of Human Services.

In 2015, the Zebra Child Protection Centre experienced a 14 per cent increase in children accessing support services including forensic interviews, court preparation, court accompaniment and trauma therapy. In response to the rise in demand, the Zebra Child Protection Centre will use the funding from Alberta Human Services to increase staff and undertake collaborative research, prevention, awareness and advocacy on a larger scale. In addition, the funding will allow the Zebra Child Protection Centre to commit to serving as a training hub for future CACs developing throughout northern Alberta.

*“One of the most valuable things we can do as an established Child Advocacy Centre is to ensure all children throughout the province are given equitable access to the services that heal,”* said Bob Hassel, CEO, Zebra Child Protection Centre. *“Not only is this funding essential for enhancing our own support services, but it allows us to assist other Child Advocacy Centres develop a consistent approach to supporting children and families who have experienced abuse.”*

-more-

In early spring of 2016, the Zebra Child Protection Centre moved into a new facility which features an additional 1,000 square feet of space and double the forensic interview rooms and child-friendly spaces. Since late 2015, four additional staff members and one additional facility dog have been added to a team that responds to child abuse in the Edmonton area.

For more information on our growth in 2015, please consult our [annual report](#).

-30-

*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. As the first Child Advocacy Centre of its kind in Canada, the Zebra Centre's model was revolutionary - bring together a community of professionals under one roof to support the child throughout the entire disclosure, investigative, judicial and healing process. Today, the Zebra Centre leads the way in continuing to providing a safe and child-friendly space where kids can tell. For more information, please visit our [website](#).*

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



### Media Contact

#### Lauren Andrews

Communications Specialist  
Zebra Child Protection Centre  
Direct: 780.391.4219  
Cell: 780.886.3495  
Email: [lauren.andrews@zebracentre.ca](mailto:lauren.andrews@zebracentre.ca)