

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

City of Edmonton Community Development Social Workers focus on the prevention of family violence by:

- Supporting, promoting and enhancing programs and services for individuals and families affected by family violence.
- Working collaboratively with community stakeholders to identify gaps in service and looking for community solutions.
- Providing training to professionals and communities on family violence prevention.
- Promoting awareness through public events.

GROUPS FOR WOMEN

Drop-In Groups

Information and support groups for women take place weekly throughout the year at three different locations in Edmonton. Please call and talk to a social worker at 780-496-4777 if you'd like to come to this year-round drop-in group. We will give you the group address over the phone. You can come once or as often as you like, whatever works best for you.

Making Connections

A three-phase model to increase understanding of abuse for women who have experienced abuse in their intimate partner relationships:

Phase I: Increased Awareness of Abuse

Phase II: Learning About Ourselves

Phase III: Advocacy

Registered groups are held weekly for 8-12 weeks per phase. The groups provide support, education and opportunities for healing in a safe environment.

*A pre-group interview is required.

GROUPS FOR MEN

From Chaos to Peace

Eight weekly evening sessions for men who have experienced intimate partner abuse.

Purpose

- Personal self-care including safety planning.
- Education of spousal abuse dynamics.
- Support network building.
- Group Support.
- Developing a healthy sense of self and others.

Groups are offered in the Spring & Fall.

* A pre-group interview is required.

Free, quality childcare is available onsite for group participants.

PARENTING AFTER FAMILY VIOLENCE

This group will help the non-offending parent understand the effects of the violence on their children, cope with and/or modify some of the behaviours that develop as a result abuse, and to strengthen their nurturing parenting skills while maintaining a safe environment. This group is for non - offending parents of children up to the age of 12 years old and who have been exposed to family violence. An enhanced child care program is provided as well as a simple meal.

GROUPS FOR OLDER ADULTS

Relationships with Your Adult Children

A drop-in group for those 60 years and older who are having problems with their adult children.

The group helps participants to:

- Connect with others who have similar concerns.
- Get support to be able to say no.
- Get information that will help you to make changes in your relationships.
- Create different choices in resolving family issues.

*This group is sponsored by a number of seniors-serving organizations.

Providing a range of services addressing family violence issues because

Family VIOLENCE Hurts Everyone

Together we can break the cycle of violence

WHAT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Family violence is abusive behavior used to control or hurt another family member or partner.

Abusive behavior includes:

- Physical violence (hitting, slapping, pushing, etc.).
- Emotional abuse (name calling, put-downs).
- Financial abuse (one person controls the money).
- Sexual abuse (forcing their partner to have sex or unwanted sexual acts).
- Neglect of a dependant family member.
- Damage to property.
- Injuring pets.
- Threats to do any of the above.

Family violence happens in all cultural, racial and religious groups and at all economic levels.

Abusive behavior often results in a partner feeling afraid and controlled.

A relationship is abusive if a person:

- Feels like they're always "walking on eggshells".
- Dominates or controls the other.
- Keeps the other from seeing family or friends.
- Uses name-calling or putdowns.
- Damages the other's property.
- Shows extreme jealousy or possessiveness.
- Pushes, hits or physically restrains the other.
- Forces sexual touching or sex.

CHILDREN - THE OFTEN FORGOTTEN VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

- Living with family violence can affect the normal physical, emotional, spiritual and mental development of children.
- Even if children aren't being hit or present when the fighting or violence happens, they can still be seriously affected.
- Living with family violence affects the way parents treat their children. It's hard to give children the care and attention they need when one parent is hurting another.
- Children living with family violence often grow up to become victims or abusers themselves. This cycle needs to be broken.

Children Often Feel:

- They are to blame.
- Worried about their parents.
- Responsible for their brothers and sisters.
- Anxious, sad and depressed.
- Angry and shameful.
- Scared and unsafe.

Effects Of Family Violence on Children and Youth Can Include:

- Physical injury before and after birth
- Premature birth
- Disturbed sleep and nightmares
- Developmental delays
- Anxious and fearful behavior
- Regressive behavior like bedwetting or thumb sucking
- Headaches, stomach aches and other aches and pains
- Poor school performance
- Poor social skills
- Aggressive language and behavior
- Cruelty toward animals
- Running away
- Alcohol and drug use
- Promiscuous behavior
- Problems with the law

SPOUSAL VIOLENCE INTERVENTION TEAMS

Spousal Violence Intervention Teams include:

- City of Edmonton Social Workers
- Edmonton Police Service Detectives

The Teams respond to spousal violence situations in which a police report has been made, and there is an assessed high risk of further violence. They combine social work and police expertise to help find solutions to end the cycle of family violence. Their role is to:

- Assess risk and provide safety options and support to victims and family members.
- Enhance police investigations.
- Partner with other agencies to assist victims and family members.
- Recommend to the Court appropriate bail sentences and conditions.
- Consult with professionals regarding high risk family violence situations.

ELDER ABUSE INTERVENTION TEAM

The Elder Abuse Intervention Team includes:

- City of Edmonton Community Development Social Worker
- Catholic Social Services Senior Resource Coordinators
- Edmonton Police Service Officer
- Victorian Order of Nurses Resource Nurse

The Team responds to elder abuse situations in which a police report has been made, and there is an assessed high risk of further violence, and referrals from the community where the team has assessed risk as high. The Team also provides help for seniors who are experiencing abuse and neglect. Their role is to:

- Initiate risk assessment.
- Develop safety plans.
- Assist with protection orders and court processes.
- Provide support and education about family violence.
- Refer victims, aggressors, and/or family members to appropriate community agencies.
- Consult with professionals regarding high risk elder abuse situations.
- Refer or accept cases based on the consultation and evaluation of risk.

City of Edmonton Community Development Social Worker also:

- Provides education, leadership and support to community stakeholders in the area of elder abuse.
- Promotes awareness of elder abuse through public events.

You can reach the Elder Abuse Intervention Teams at

780-477-2929

ASSESSMENT AND SHORT-TERM COUNSELLING

We provide help for individuals and families

- An opportunity to talk privately with a professional social worker about issues and concerns.
- Counselling for the stresses of daily life, relationship, family violence.
- Help in finding the right community resources - for those who are victims of family violence - and for individuals who are concerned about their abusive behaviors.
- Short term counselling that includes: safety planning and dealing with the harm done by family violence.
- Groups for adult victims of family violence are offered at various locations in the city.
- All counselling and groups are free of charge.
- Services are offered at sites throughout the city.
- Evening appointments available.

To speak privately with a professional social worker about any of these services, call

780-496-4777

Our phone lines are open from 8:30 – 4:30 Monday through Friday