



Message from the new Minister of Mental Health and Addiction



I'm honoured to serve as Alberta's Minister of Mental Health and Addiction. Supporting the mental wellness and recovery of Albertans is a responsibility I take to heart, and I'm committed to building a system that is compassionate, accessible and responsive to the needs of those struggling with mental illness and addiction.

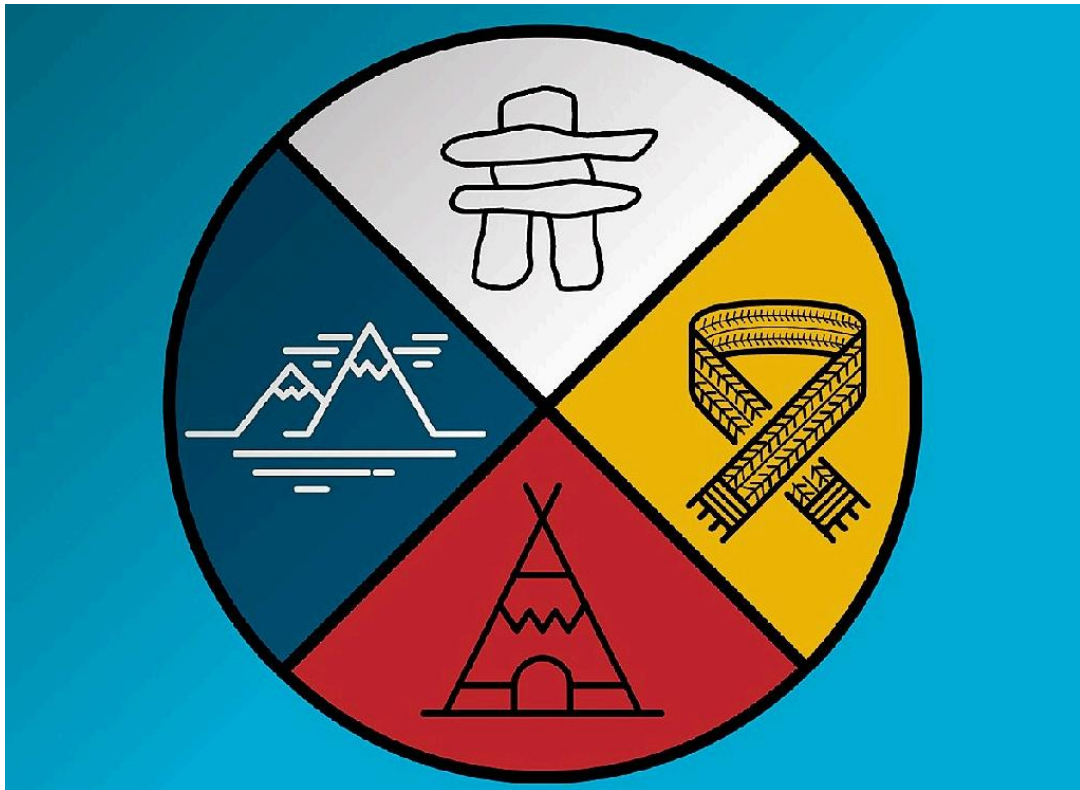
I acknowledge the tremendous work of Minister Dan Williams, whose leadership helped lay a strong foundation for Alberta's recovery-oriented system of care. I am looking forward to building on that momentum and continuing to expand the Alberta Recovery Model.

Since being elected as the MLA for Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin in 2019, and through my time as Minister of Indigenous Relations, I've had the privilege of working closely with communities across the province. Those experiences have deepened my understanding of the importance of culturally responsive and community-driven approaches—values I will carry forward in this new role.

I look forward to working with each of you, our valued partners, service providers, health care professionals and communities, to create a system that is focused on the long-term wellness of all Albertans.

Rick Wilson, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction

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Culturally inclusive care under the Alberta Recovery Model

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day, a day dedicated to celebrating and recognizing the rich cultures, histories and contributions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples across Alberta.

For many Indigenous people in Alberta, having access to supports and services that honour cultural practices is key to pursuing recovery from mental health and addiction challenges. Alberta's government is working in partnership with Indigenous communities to build a comprehensive continuum of care – one where Indigenous people have access to culturally safe, barrier-free and evidence-based supports and services to pursue recovery.

Alberta's government is working with Indigenous communities across the province to build five recovery communities, delivering land-based live-in treatment options for those struggling with addiction. Participants can stay free of charge for up to one year and will be provided with comprehensive services that embody culture, ceremony, identity, family and community connections to meet the needs of Indigenous people.

Recovery Communities are underway in Siksika Nation, Blood Tribe, Enoch Cree Nation, Tsuut'ina Nation and the Métis Nation of Alberta, all of which are expected to be completed beginning in late 2025 through 2027.



Blood Tribe Recovery Community



Enoch Recovery Community

Alberta's government is also working with system partners like [CASA Mental Health](#) and [Kickstand](#) to provide support for children and youth in Indigenous communities. Three Indigenous CASA mental health classrooms will be operational in Indigenous communities by 2026, providing clinical supports to students with complex mental health and psychiatric needs. Kickstand Centres are being established in Samson Cree, Enoch Cree and Alexis Sioux Nations, supporting youth aged 11 to 25 with mental health support, substance use services, peer support, Indigenous wellness services and more.

As work to build the Alberta Recovery Model continues, Alberta's government is committed to working in partnership with Indigenous communities to ensure anyone struggling with mental health or addiction challenges is supported in their pursuit of recovery.

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PARTNER UPDATES



Recovery Alberta is committed to improving health care concerns and experiences for Indigenous people.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples including youth and Elders as well as those living on or off reserve, in a Settlement or in cities and towns can also call the [Indigenous Support Line](#) to



CoRE released a position paper addressing the effects of cannabis on safety-sensitive and decision-critical jobs.

Cannabis is now the most common substance found in workplace drug tests. While legal access has expanded, so have the challenges of managing

be connected with culturally safe mental health and addiction supports. Call 1-844-944-4744 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The support line is a step towards reconciliation and was awarded a Health Quality Patient Experience Award in 2023.

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impairment—especially in high-risk roles.

Cannabis users and employers are encouraged to explore the research and resources compiled by CoRE to better understand how this new guidance can promote safer and more informed workplace practices.

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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



WETASKIWIN TIMES

MLA Wilson's new portfolio to benefit from his work with First Nations.



ONSITE MAGAZINE

Navigating the risk of cannabis impairment in high-risk jobs.



RDNEWS NOW

Red Deer RCMP laud success of opioid dependency program.



ALBERTA NEWS

National Indigenous History Month

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