Inspiration awards 2020
Event program
The Government of Alberta is pleased to present the 2020 Inspiration Awards. Since 2012, the Inspiration Awards have recognized extraordinary Albertans for their leadership in ending family violence and abuse in their communities and across the province. This year, the awards recognize Albertans who demonstrate a commitment to preventing family violence, sexual violence and bullying. We are proud to celebrate their inspirational work and commitment to preventing family and sexual violence, and promoting healthy relationships in our province.

For more information about the Inspiration Awards or family violence prevention:

Visit our website at
[alberta.ca/EndFamilyViolence](http://alberta.ca/EndFamilyViolence)

Follow us on Twitter @AlbertaCSS and use the hashtag
[InspirationAwardsAB](http://InspirationAwardsAB)
Ceremony program

Master of Ceremonies: Ken Dropko
1:30 p.m. Registration
2:00 p.m. Program begins – Opening remarks, Minister Rajan Sawhney, Community and Social Services
2:10 p.m. Awards presentation
2:40 p.m. Light refreshments

Emcee: Ken Dropko

Ken Dropko is the Executive Director of Family and Community Services in the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Ken has a Master’s degree in Education from the University of Alberta. After many years in the education system serving as principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent, Ken joined the Government of Alberta in 2005 through Alberta Education.

Ken’s current portfolio includes Family and Community Support Services, Family Violence Prevention, Sexual Violence Prevention, Healthy Relationship initiatives, and secretariat support for the Family Violence Death Review Committee and the Premier’s Council on Charities and Civil Society.
Leadership in family violence prevention
Individual award recipients

Paul Kent, Calgary
Paul is a Clinical Social Worker who supports those experiencing family violence. He brought theory into practice through his creation of the Validation, Information and Plan model, which supports people with the complexities and challenges related to relationships.

Christine Berry, Calgary
Christine is a Registered Psychologist and the Director of Family Violence Prevention Initiatives at the Calgary Counselling Centre. She has worked in family violence counselling and prevention in Alberta for over 23 years.

Carlene Donnelly, Calgary
Carlene is the Executive Director of Calgary Urban Projects Society (CUPS), a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people overcome poverty and trauma. Her work has contributed to building collaborative and holistic services in health care, education and social services.
Leadership in family violence prevention
Organization award recipients

The Today Family Violence Help Centre, Edmonton
The Today Family Violence Help Centre collaborates with partners to provide comprehensive services to those experiencing family violence, as well as public education and awareness raising efforts to help others recognize and respond to family violence.

Stop Abuse in Families (SAIF) Society, St. Albert
For over 30 years, SAIF has provided free services to individuals and families who witness or experience abuse and violence. Their work informs and supports people in St. Albert, Sturgeon County and smaller rural communities in the prevention of domestic abuse and violence.
Leadership in family violence prevention

Organization award recipients

Islamic Family & Social Services Association (IFSSA), Edmonton

IFSSA has been a leading voice against domestic violence in diverse communities for over 25 years. The organization supports clients through crisis support, domestic violence intervention, refugee support, preventive youth programming, food hampers and more.

High Level Community Policing Society (HLCPS), High Level

HLCPS’ Domestic Violence Response Unit addresses the root cause of domestic violence in the region, trauma, to address the high rates of domestic violence-related incidents. Their programming has resulted in a 31% decrease in incidents since the unit’s inception.
Leadership in family violence prevention
Business award recipients

Higgerty Law, Calgary

Many of Higgerty Law’s cases involve working with victims of crime where injurious conduct has occurred. Staff are trained in Informed Trauma Care, which acknowledges treatment of claimants who have experienced trauma, to offer a respectful approach to clients who are recovering from traumatic events.
Leadership in prevention of sexual violence
Individual award recipients

Dr. Kiara Mikita, Calgary
Dr. Mikita has studied sexual violence for over a decade, and fosters cross-disciplinary collaboration and community building in the different sectors involved in sexual violence prevention and response.

Tammy Shopland, Lloydminster
Tammy is Chief Executive Officer for Lloydminster Sexual Assault Services (LSAS). Under her leadership, LSAS developed the Little Bear Child and Youth Centre, and North Ryken Enhanced Services to support a variety of needs within Lloydminster and surrounding communities. By creating warm, welcoming environments, Tammy has opened up the conversation on sexual violence.
Leadership in prevention of sexual violence
Organization award recipients

Bow Valley Harmony Project, Banff
The Harmony Project brings together service providers to focus on sexual violence prevention and awareness, training for service providers and community members, and enhancing direct services for survivors and their support people.

MacEwan University, Edmonton
MacEwan Anti-Violence Education Network (MAVEN) provides over 50 hours of training to students to become Peer Educators. In turn, they create a culture of consent at MacEwan through workshop facilitation and outreach activities.
Leadership in bullying prevention
Individual award recipients

Caroline Gosling (Missal), Edmonton
Caroline has been an educator for 34 years, always invested in creating environments that are caring, respectful, and safe for all. Caroline is a past board member of the Hope Foundation, the Zebra Child Protection Society, and the Alberta Conflict Transformation Society. She is past chair of the Alberta Restorative Justice Association and now does work with the International Institute for Restorative Practices.

Brett Todd, Cold Lake
Brett completed his Master’s degree in Counselling Psychology with Yorkville University in 2018. He has made a significant contribution helping students as the Family Outreach Worker at Assumption School, as well as in the Cold Lake area to help build resiliency in the face of adversity.
Dr. Deinera Exner-Cortens, Calgary

Dr. Exner-Cortens is making major contributions to preventing adolescent dating violence and building healthy youth relationships. Since completing her PhD in 2014, she has been awarded over $1.3 million to conduct cutting-edge dating violence prevention research and deliver prevention programming in Alberta.
Innovation award
Leadership in promoting healthy relationships
Organization award recipient

Ever Active Schools (EAS), Edmonton
EAS is a provincial initiative designed to create and support healthy school communities. They engage and support schools through a Comprehensive School Health approach, which addresses health and education goals to improve the social outcomes of children and youth in Alberta.
Lifetime achievement award

Penny Mickanuck, Grande Prairie

In her 28 years as Executive Director of the John Howard Society of Grande Prairie, Penny has demonstrated leadership in building local programs and capacity to prevent domestic violence. She has been a pioneer in Grande Prairie and Alberta with her involvement in working with the complex issue of family violence. Her tremendous efforts have empowered people to address their own issues leading to family violence.