Alberta

News release

BUILDING TOMORROW

A PLAN to secure Alberta's future

November 5, 2007

The Art of Peace counters family violence and bullying

Arts challenge engages youth in creating art that inspires action, as part of Family Violence Prevention Month

Edmonton...
Alberta's youth will take action against family violence and bullying by creating "art of peace" as part of a new youth engagement initiative launched by the Government of Alberta on November 5.

The Art of Peace Challenge invites youth between the ages of 14 and 20 to create and submit artistic works that reach out to someone impacted by family violence or bullying.

"We're pleased to extend this new and exciting challenge to youth during Family Violence Prevention Month," says Janis Tarchuk, Children's Services Minister. "Youth have an important role to play in changing the way people think about, and respond to, situations of family violence and bullying."

"*The Art of Peace* will engage youth and provide an opportunity for them to use art to take action on family violence and bullying and create change within their communities," says George Rogers, MLA for Leduc-Beaumont-Devon, and chair of the Youth Secretariat.

Participating youth can share their perspective through music, the visual arts, the printed word, dance, film/video, theatre or in a multidisciplinary approach. Submissions will be accepted between February 1 and 29, 2008. Finalists and their works will be recognized at a gala showcase in the spring where they will receive awards. Additional information about *The Art of Peace* is available at familyviolence.gov.ab.ca.

To develop a thorough understanding of how to prevent and respond to family violence and bullying situations, participants must interview a trusted advisor in their community before creating their art. A trusted advisor may include a police officer, teacher, shelter worker, guidance counsellor, or another individual knowledgeable about family violence and bullying.

The Art of Peace is one aspect of the government's family violence prevention campaign, which also includes advertising and new family violence resources. Increasing public awareness about family violence is just one of several initiatives that Children's Services has implemented to assist families impacted by family violence, including providing support to women's shelters and communities to address family violence. Nine partnering provincial ministries, with a combined total budget of over $46 million, work together on numerous projects and initiatives to prevent and respond to family violence. Preventing family violence and bullying is part of Premier Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building our communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity.

Backgrounder: Overview of government's actions to prevent and respond to family violence is available at child.alberta.ca.

Media enquiries may be directed to:

Bobbi Klettke
Children's Services Communications
(780) 427-4801

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.