
Providing safe and secure communities

September 26, 2007

New Alberta law better protects sexually exploited children

Law takes effect October 1

Edmonton... Children who are victims of sexual exploitation through prostitution will receive enhanced support when new provincial legislation becomes law on October 1.

“We’ve made changes to the *Protection of Children Involved in Prostitution Act* to reflect the true circumstances of these children’s lives,” said Children’s Services Minister Janis Tarchuk. “This new law makes us more responsive to the needs of some of Alberta’s most vulnerable children by getting them the help they need without barriers or stigma.”

The new law changes the name of the act to the *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act* to remove the stigma associated with prostitution that has caused some children and families to avoid accessing services.

The legislation gives sexually exploited children additional time to complete programs that help them end their involvement in prostitution. Youth will be able to access voluntary services until the age of 22 to help them deal with the complex issues facing sexually exploited children and youth. The law also better protects sexually exploited children from public identification.

The new law was passed on April 20.

Addressing children’s safety is part of Premier Ed Stelmach’s plan to provide safe and secure communities. Other priorities for government are to: govern with integrity and transparency, manage growth pressures, improve Albertans’ quality of life and build a stronger Alberta.

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