



ALBERTA  
HEALTH

Office of the Associate Minister of Health  
MLA, Calgary - Acadia

AR 138682

OCT 21 2016

Cathy Bouchard  
President, Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council  
Catholic Women's League of Canada  
364, 5140 - 62 Street  
Red Deer, Alberta  
T4N 6R1

Dear Cathy Bouchard:

Honourable Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Seniors and Housing, forwarded your letter regarding post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Please accept my sincere apology for the delay in responding.

I appreciate your organization's support of the *Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Day Act*, and I understand you would like the Government of Alberta to take further action on this important health issue. In light of recent events, and the devastation of the wildfires in the Wood Buffalo region, access to supports for PTSD and other mental health issues remains a high priority for our government.

The following supports and services are available to those experiencing PTSD:

- Critical incident stress management and peer support program
  - Offers around the clock peer-to-peer debriefing and support for emergency responders through a team of 50 volunteer emergency medical services staff.
  - Expansion of this program to include support to volunteer firefighters who responded to the wildfires in the Wood Buffalo region is under consideration.
- Employee and family assistance programs
  - Provide variety of free and confidential supports, including counselling, to employees and their immediate family members.
- Operational stress injury clinic in partnership with Veterans Affairs Canada
  - Assesses and treats mental health issues caused by service-related stress or trauma for veterans, Canadian Forces members, RCMP members, and their families.
- Mental health help line at 1-877-303-2642
  - Provides province-wide crisis support, information on mental health programs and services, and referral to other agencies where appropriate.

.../2

Cathy Bouchard  
Page 2

Alberta Works offers temporary Income Support assistance to low-income families, including individuals with health problems. Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) provides financial and health-related assistance to eligible adults. While there is no specific benefit exclusively for those with PTSD, individuals with a chronic medical condition can be assessed for Income Support eligibility. Persons with a permanent disability that substantially limits their ability to earn a living may be eligible for AISH. Albertans can contact Alberta Supports at 1-877-644-9992 or [alberta.ca/alberta-supports.aspx](http://alberta.ca/alberta-supports.aspx) to be connected to the nearest Alberta Works Centre or AISH worker.

Thank you for your interest in PTSD and your advocacy on behalf of Albertans affected by this disorder.

Sincerely,



Brandy Payne  
Associate Minister of Health

cc: Honourable Sarah Hoffman  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Health

Honourable Lori Sigurdson  
Minister of Seniors and Housing

Nicole Goehring  
MLA, Edmonton-Castle Downs