

Investing in People

February 10, 2012

Province invests in community workers who support Albertans

Edmonton... Community agencies contracted by the Alberta government to provide services to vulnerable Albertans will benefit from an increase in funding over the next three years to help them recruit and retain staff.

“Staff in contracted agencies play a pivotal role supporting adults with disabilities in community and home-like settings,” says George VanderBurg, Minister of Seniors. “This funding will help contracted agencies attract and retain qualified staff so that our most vulnerable Albertans get the excellent support they deserve. We recognize that increasing staff wages is an important step and we now have a long-term strategy in place.”

This year, agencies contracted by Seniors and Human Services will receive an additional \$62 million—the equivalent of a five per cent wage increase and a \$1,500 lump sum payment for an estimated 17,000 agency workers. These workers provide a range of professional and supportive services for adults with developmental disabilities and brain injuries as well as children, youth and families. Services include child intervention, home care, and support to those affected by family violence.

Last year, government made a decision to address wages for contracted agency staff through two lump sum payments. The first lump sum was provided in September 2011. The second lump sum of \$1,500 will be paid to the agencies in April for disbursement to their employees. Budget 2012 also outlines a commitment to additional agency funding in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

“We will work closely with our agency partners to maximize this investment in the coming years,” says Dave Hancock, Minister of Human Services. “Attracting and retaining staff is key as we focus on helping children and youth reach their full potential and achieve positive outcomes for families.”

This funding reflects Premier Alison Redford’s commitment to developing a healthy, sustainable workforce within the service provider sector.

Budget 2012 invests in people. It allocates approximately 75 per cent of provincial funding to the core programs of health, education and human services without raising taxes, while forecasting a return to a balanced budget by 2013-14.

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Backgrounder

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Three year funding for Contracted Agency Wages

Budget Year	Human Services	Seniors	Total Budget
2012-13	\$26 million	\$36 million	\$62 million
2013-14	\$50 million	\$78 million	\$128 million
2014-15	\$84 million	\$113 million	\$197 million

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