



Friends and family key in preventing family violence

November was proclaimed [Family Violence Prevention Month](#) in Edmonton by Mayor Don Iveson on November 2, 2015.

"Family violence remains all too common in our society. The City of Edmonton is taking action to change the conversation through preventative activities and raising awareness," said Mayor Don Iveson. "We are working to create communities where women, men and children are safe in their homes, workplaces and neighbourhoods."

The theme for this year's proclamation, "Supporting the Supporters: How Friends and Family Can Help Prevent Family Violence," focuses on the importance informal support systems play in preventing abuse.

"There is tremendous benefit in having a societal response to family violence. This means educating, supporting and building capacity within informal networks so that they can be part of the solution," said Margie Marvin, social worker with the City of Edmonton.

Family violence can include many different forms of physical and emotional abuse or neglect carried out by family members or intimate partners.

Family Violence Prevention Month started in 1986 as a local initiative in the town of Hinton, AB. Town residents launched a family violence education and prevention campaign, inspiring the Alberta Legislature to support family violence prevention as an ongoing initiative. This was the beginning of Family Violence Prevention Month. Today, hundreds of communities and thousands of individuals in Alberta are involved in preventing family violence by providing public education and services.

A number of [events](#) for Family Violence Prevention Month will take place across Edmonton and the province.

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