



March 6, 2017

Minister of Finance & President of the Alberta Treasury Board

The Honorable Joe Ceci

**RE: Contracted sector for Children's Services**

We are thrilled that in your last address on the third quarter you were able to state that:

"A full economic recovery will take time after such a long downturn, but we are starting to see encouraging signs for Alberta in the year ahead. Some challenges still remain and that's why we are sticking to our plan of putting Albertans to work by creating good jobs and diversifying our economy. We will continue to protect the services that Albertans depend on."

As you are aware many of the families who have been challenged are receiving services through community agencies. While FCSS funding has been substantially increased and that certainly helps, the funding for the agencies that provide services to the more vulnerable and those at risk of having their children enter care have not. These contracts have been stagnant for about 2 years or longer. We had been working with the Ministry of Human Services to find a way forward in the procurement activities to get to a better funding model and closer to true costs. As the ministries' split and new ministries were developed this work has stalled. We expect to move forward in the future but for now the stall means contracts that are at least 2 years old likely will go at least another 2 years before we can institute future-state contracting strategies or approaches. The reality of: the ministry splits taking time to reorganize; the Child Intervention panel needing to make recommendations; and the Procurement Table recommending further community consultation, we foresee some time before contracts can even begin to be re-negotiated. In the mean time the workers (4000FTE's) in the sector are not getting ahead while helping other Albertan families do so.



It is our request that you and the Ministers of Community and Social Services and Children's Services consider a small injection of funds to at least bolster wages. There are many other areas like operating costs for example that need to be considered as well but at this moment the wages are paramount.

Many people have put their expertise into the Procurements Advisory Table and its recommendations and we want to make sure that it is given the consideration it is due, therefore we hope that an injection now can help for a better system in the long run as government and the sector align to ensure delivery is effective, efficient and good outcomes are achieved for Albertans. I encourage you to review the final report and recommendations to the Minister of Human Services.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, Rhonda Barraclough ([RhondaB@alignab.ca](mailto:RhondaB@alignab.ca)) or our Board President Bruce Armson ([Barmson@upcs.org](mailto:Barmson@upcs.org)) as we would be happy to meet or talk to you about these concerns.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Barraclough

Executive Director

.cc Minister Sabir

.cc Minister Larivee