



November 1, 2022

Honorable Jeremy Nixon
Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services
Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Nixon,

On behalf of ALIGN and its members, I want to extend my congratulations on being appointed Minister of Seniors, Community Social Services. ALIGN Association of Community Services represents the contracted community services agency sector that is a significant part of your Ministry in the area of Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD), Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and Family Violence.

Agencies support the work of the ministry in many ways. Just to name a few:

- We have historically worked together to develop policy and practice initiatives that ensure the best practice possible for vulnerable families; and
- Recently we have launched our Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework (ICUF) which is a clear plan and journey leading to greater cultural awareness and understanding for agency and First Nations staff, and families;

The agencies in the human service sector are struggling. It's time to focus on strengthening the sector and addressing workforce resilience as we exit the pandemic. We need to ensure that service providers, who are vital to the front line and the vulnerable Albertans at risk of entering the system, are cared for.

Some of my Board members and I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you and your team to discuss our ability to develop and grow a sustainable non-profit sector and community support services that cares for vulnerable Albertans.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment. We look forward to continuing our work with you and your government moving forward. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at RhondaB@alignab.ca or 780.233.5459

Sincerely,

Rhonda Barraclough

Executive Director



About **ALIGN**:

ALIGN Association of Community Services has over 55 years of experience and wisdom; we are experts in leading practices in the sector. The community, teaching institutions, the Government of Alberta and other associations recognize us for our expertise across the province. Our leadership and participation on important issues involving our sector are constantly in demand. With our shared experience, we act as a central hub for our members to share information, research and resources. We are all working in one unified direction.

ALIGN members hold approximately 80% of the contracts for front line intervention services. Additionally, our members are contracted to provide family support for children with disabilities, early intervention programs and programs for prevention of family violence. Organizations are selected for these contracts because they consistently deliver high quality services at a competitive cost. Our membership provides strong leadership that is flexible and responsive to the changing landscape of life in Alberta. Proven business models, a focus on efficiency, professionalism, and a passion for our work enables members to achieve positive outcomes for vulnerable Albertans during good times and bad.