



September 20, 2019

On behalf of ALIGN, ACDS, Children's Services and Community and Social Services, we are pleased to tell you about the new Community Services Staff Safety Initiative (CSSSI), which is intended to increase safety and reduce harassment and violence in the workplace:

The Government of Alberta has contracted the [Alberta Association for Safety Partnerships \(AASP\)](#) to work with ALIGN and ACDS to design and deliver new resources for staff, to be implemented between now and 2021. The initiative will specifically support contracted agency workers who provide children's services and disability supports – by providing customized safety information, training and tools for staff, supervisors and employers.

Resources will include:

- activities and materials to generate awareness within the community services sector about workplace violence and harassment;
- tools, templates and best practices to enhance safety for staff; and
- training to help Occupational Health & Safety committee members and representatives understand their role and responsibilities and broader training to support safe and healthy workplaces for all staff.

The AASP is a non-profit organization certified to help a wide variety of Alberta employers incorporate health and safety systems into their workplaces. Their expertise, combined with the knowledge of ACDS and ALIGN about the unique issues and challenges facing the community services sector, will support staff to identify, assess and respond to the hazards they face in their day-to-day work.

The health and safety of workers and clients is equally important. When workers are safe, they are better able to provide support to their clients. Violence and harassment should never be considered as just part of the job. The resources developed through this project will give front-line staff, supervisors and employers the practical information, training and strategies to support safe work environments for everyone in the workplace.

Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting Albertans. Please share this information with your staff. We will continue to keep you updated about this project as it rolls out. You can also check the [AASP web page](#) for project updates and opportunities to provide input.

Any questions about the initiative can be directed to Mr. Ray Gaetz, Chief Operations Officer, AASP (ray@aasp.ca) or Ms. Carol Ross, Chief Executive Officer, AASP (carol@aasp.ca).

Sincerely,

CSSSI Steering Committee member organizations:
ACDS, ALIGN, Children's Services, Community and Social Services