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On April 1, 2009, AHS brought together 12 formerly separate health entities in the province: nine geographically based health authorities (Chinook Health, Palliser Health Region, Calgary Health Region, David Thompson Health Region, East Central Health, Capital Health, Aspen Regional Health, Peace Country Health and Northern Lights Health Region) and three provincial entities working specifically in the areas of mental health (Alberta Mental Health Board), addiction (Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission) and cancer (Alberta Cancer Board).



## A CALL TO ACTION

## The Alberta Suicide Prevention Strategy

The purpose of A CALL TO ACTION is to reduce suicide, suicidal behaviour, and its impact on Albertans.

**To accomplish this purpose, the following eight goals were identified:**

1. **Secure targeted and sustainable funding to implement the Alberta Suicide Prevention Strategy.**
2. **Enhance mental health and well-being among Albertans.**
3. **Improve intervention and treatment for those at risk of suicide in Alberta.**
4. **Improve intervention and support for Albertans affected by suicide.**
5. **Increase efforts to reduce access to lethal means of suicide.**
6. **Increase research activities in Alberta on suicide, suicidal behaviour, and suicide prevention.**
7. **Improve suicide and suicidal behaviour-related surveillance systems in Alberta.**
8. **Increase evaluation and continuous quality improvement activities in Alberta for suicide prevention programs.**

Suicide is consistently a leading cause of death among Albertans. Suicide claims more lives annually than other more openly discussed issues such as motor vehicle collisions, AIDS or homicide. More than 450 Albertans die by suicide each year.

Suicide is a tragedy that affects the individual, their loved ones and their community. Ultimately, it is a tragedy that affects all Albertans. **Alberta is taking action.**

During 2005, the Alberta Mental Health Board has led the collaborative effort of provincial and federal government ministries, survivors, regional health authorities, and non-government organizations that together created the Alberta Suicide Prevention Strategy.

*A CALL TO ACTION: The Alberta Suicide Prevention Strategy* will support and guide suicide prevention researchers, survivors, service providers, policy makers and other stakeholders at local, regional and provincial levels. It is time to take action towards a common goal of preventing suicide and reducing its impact. It is anticipated that partnerships will be forged, that research will be inspired, that appropriate intervention and support will be provided and that the mental health and well-being of Albertans will be strengthened.

In 2006/07, a comprehensive implementation plan will be developed to put this Strategy into action. The Alberta Mental Health Board will continue to lead development of this plan in collaboration with the Alberta Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee.

Copies of A CALL TO ACTION, along with accompanying background documents and appendices, can be downloaded from: <http://www.amhb.ab.ca/publications/>