

Update: Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU)

Good news! Justice Canada has announced extending the funding for the Family Information Liaison Unit until March 31, 2023.

The Family Information Liaison Unit provides a specialized, add on service to the excellent services already being provided by existing Victim Services Units in Alberta.

The FILU act as a single point of contact to support families with Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The FILU will continue to assist families by:

- Providing system navigation.
 - Requesting & obtaining police information, medical examiner reports, child welfare records, hospital reports, crown and court information and more.
- Connecting families with supports, including counsellors, Elders, Indigenous and non-Indigenous agencies as part of a wrap-around trauma informed approach.
- Utilizing an outreach model to reduce barriers – the FILU will continue to be based in Edmonton but will travel to the families in their respective communities
- Ensuring services are culturally safe. This means providing services through an Indigenous lens with insight and understanding of Indigenous history and the resulting intergenerational impacts, as well as utilizing a facilitated referral approach/warm transfers to address the resulting marginalization experienced by many families.
- Providing specialized knowledge and support regarding grief and loss, trauma, ambiguous loss and circle facilitation.
- Operationalizing any needed cross-jurisdictional support through connection to other FILUs across the country in all jurisdictions, including to the USA.
- The provision of financial support (including protocol) to families to attend healing and support events, including accessing Elder support. Funding can also be accessed to attend court proceedings and police meetings.

The FILU can work collaboratively with victim services providers by:

- Providing information on protocol; facilitating access to an Elder other type of spiritual support for families,
- Consulting on referrals,
- Collaborative service delivery, or
- be a referral recipient

The FILU are security cleared and provide information to the families in accordance with the Alberta [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) . This allows the FILU

staff to meet the needs of victims effectively through collaborative, coordinated and integrated service delivery. Working in this manner enables a victim-centred focus that considers an individual's immediate and long-term needs.

All referrals and inter-agency information sharing is conducted with the knowledge and written consent of the families.

If you wish to make a referral to the FILU, simply contact the FILU staff in your area and/or provide the information to families. If you are not sure who to send it to, send it to the Indigenous Programs Manager, Tracey Makokis.

Family Information Liaison Unit Contact List

MAKOKIS, Tracey: Manager:

Office: (780)-644-2388 Cell: (780)231-6613 Tracey.Makokis@gov.ab.ca

CARDINAL, Ralph: Northeast Alberta, Includes: Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Fort Chipewyan, Eastern Metis Settlements, Saddle Lake, Frog Lake, Fort Mackay, Kehewin, Cold Lake, Lac la Biche, Athabasca, Calling Lake, Wabasca, Peerless & Trout, Little Red Nations, Tall Cree, Lloydminster and Cold Lake.

Office: (780)644-9890 Cell: (587) 984-7927 Ralph.Cardinal@gov.ab.ca

DAVIES, Laurie: Central/West Alberta, Includes: Edmonton, Peace River, Grande Prairie, Fairview, Red Earth, Sucker Creek, Gift Lake, East Prairie, Atikameg, Peavine, High Prairie, Grouard, Lubicon Lake, Driftpile, Loon River, Duncan First Nation, Slave Lake, Westlock, Whitecourt, Sturgeon Lake, Horse Lake, Valleyview, Edson, Hinton, Jasper, Grande Cache, Alexis, Paul band, Alexander.

Office: (780)644-9823 Cell: (587) 984-8107 Laurie.Davies@gov.ab.ca

Vacant – please contact Tracey: Northwest Alberta, High Level, Dene Tha' Nations, John D'or Prairie Cree Nations, Tall Cree Reserves, Fort Vermilion

RANDHILE, Janice: Southern Alberta, Includes: Edmonton, Enoch, Maskwacis, Wetaskiwin, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Blood Tribe, Siksika, Tsuut'ina, Piikani, Calgary, Stoney Nakoda Nations, Rocky Mountain House, O Chiese, Sunchild & Bighorn.

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