

# Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU)

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The Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) provides a specialized service to augment the excellent services already being provided by Victim Services Units (VSUs) across Alberta.

The Family Information Liaison's (FILs) act as a single point of contact to support families with Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The FILU assist families by:

- Providing system navigation
  - Requesting & obtaining police information, medical examiner reports, child and family services information, 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 –FILs travel to the families in their respective communities.
- 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.
- Providing funding 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 family meetings.

FILU services are culturally safe. This means services are provided through an Indigenous lens with insight and understanding of Indigenous history and the resulting intergenerational impacts. A facilitated referral approach/warm transfer is utilized to address the resulting marginalization experienced by many families.

The FILU can work collaboratively with other service providers by:

- Providing information on protocol and facilitating access to an Elder or other type of spiritual support for families
- Sharing resource options for missing and murdered persons
- Making referrals
- Having families referred to the FILU
- Facilitating information sessions about FILU services and MMIWG

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-centered 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 FIL in your area and/or provide the information to families.

## Family Information Liaison Unit Contact List

**Office Number:** (780) 644-5187 to reach FILU reception. To make it local, call 310 0000 and then input the 10-digit phone number. To reach a FIL directly, input their specific 10-digit phone number (listed below)

**Tracey MAKOKIS**, Manager:

Contact: (780) 644-2388 [tracey.makokis@gov.ab.ca](mailto:tracey.makokis@gov.ab.ca)

**Dia THURSTON:** North/Mackenzie Region. Includes: Dene Tha' Nation Communities (Chateh, Bushe River and Meander River), Little Red River Nation (John D'or Prairie, Garden River and Fox Lake), Tallcree Nation Communities (North Tallcree, South Tallcree, Tallcree/Ft. Vermillion and Beaver Ranch), Beaver Nation Communities (Child Lake and Boyer River), Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement, High Level, Rocky Lane, Rainbow Lake, Zama, Fort Vermillion, La Crete.

Contact: (780) 926-7020 [dia.thurston@gov.ab.ca](mailto:dia.thurston@gov.ab.ca)

**Laurie DAVIES:** Northwest/Central Region. Includes: Edmonton, Peace River, Grande Prairie, Fairview, Red Earth Creek, Sucker Creek First Nation, Atikameg/Whitefish First Nation, High Prairie, Grouard, Driftpile Cree Nation, Loon Lake First Nation, Cadotte Lake/Woodland Cree First Nation, Little Buffalo First Nation/Lubicon Lake Band, Duncan's First Nation, Slave Lake, Westlock, Whitecourt, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Valleyview, Edson, Hinton, Jasper, Grande Cache, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Paul First Nation, Alexander First Nation and Metis Settlements: East Prairie, Peavine and Gift Lake (and all points in between).

Contact: (780) 644-9823 [laurie.davies@gov.ab.ca](mailto:laurie.davies@gov.ab.ca)

**Tanya SHAW:** Northeast/Central Region. Includes: Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Gregoire Lake, Conklin, Janvier, Heart Lake First Nation, Fort Chipewyan, Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Frog Lake First Nation, Fort Mackay First Nation, Kehewin Cree Nation, Cold Lake First Nations, Lac la Biche, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Calling Lake, Wabasca, Peerless Trout First Nation, Lloydminster and Metis Settlements Buffalo Lake, Fishing Lake, Kikino & Elizabeth.

Contact: (780) 644-9890 [tanya.shaw@gov.ab.ca](mailto:tanya.shaw@gov.ab.ca)

**Janice RANDHILE:** Central/Southern Region. Includes: Edmonton, Enoch Cree Nation, Maskwacis, AB (Samson First Nation, Louis Bull First Nation, Ermineskin First Nation, Montana First Nation and Pigeon Lake First Nation), Wetaskiwin, Ponoka, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Blood Tribe - Kainaiwa, Siksika Nation, Tsuut'ina Nation, Piikani Nation, Calgary, Stoney Nakoda Nations (Chiniki First Nation, Bears paw First Nation, Wesley First Nation, Bighorn First Nation and Eden Valley First Nation (Gahnha Nakoda)), Rocky Mountain House, O'Chiese First Nation, and Sunchild First Nation.

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