



## **Resolution # 09 – 09**

### **Alberta Community Diversion Courts**

- WHEREAS it is recognized that in the course of their duties, members of Alberta’s police services regularly come into contact with offenders who have chronic unresolved addictions, and/or serious and persistent mental health issues, bringing these offenders into regular conflict with the justice system and the community, and;
- WHEREAS it is recognized that when such offenders are regularly arrested, processed, prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced within the traditional criminal justice system, the root causes of their behaviours, in particular those causes that relate to addiction and persistent mental health issues, are often not adequately addressed, and;
- WHEREAS it is recognized that it would be of great benefit to the community to reduce the recidivism of these types of offenders, thereby enhancing public safety, by providing these offenders with accountability-based treatment opportunities, that better and more specifically address their underlying addiction and/or long-term mental health issues, and;
- WHEREAS more specifically, what is required are court-structured interventions that focus on the underlying chronic behaviours of such offenders, using pending criminal sanctions as a method to encourage an offender’s monitored compliance with their individualized and coordinated treatment needs, providing a meaningful response to the problems posed by these offenders, based on long-term treatment objectives as an alternative to incarceration, and;
- WHEREAS cooperative efforts by the following Alberta Provincial Government Ministries: Justice and Attorney General; Solicitor General and Public Security; Infrastructure; and Health & Wellness; are necessary to develop and support specialized Community Diversion Courts in Alberta’s major city centres – with a view

toward addressing, through legally accepted accountability-based treatment and case management options, the root addiction and mental health causes of certain types of illegal behaviour.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police (AACP) urges the Province of Alberta to support and commit to the implementation of a specialized Community Diversion Court pilot project within the province.