

# Supported Independent Living in the Mackenzie Region

NWR FASD Society–Mackenzie Network  
Updated April 2013

# Recognized need

- ▶ At present we have
- ▶ 54 adults suspected or diagnosed within our programs.
- ▶ 28 clients who need access to Supported Living Accommodations.
- ▶ 26 of the 54 are presently in some type of accommodations.
- ▶ 17 have been stable for 6 months or more.

# What are the needs?

- ▶ 8 clients should have 24/7 support.
- ▶ 5 of those clients are in situations at present with natural supports, 1 is incarcerated and 2 are couch surfing
- ▶ The remaining 46 clients require check-ins and support with one or more daily living skills

# What type of residences?

- ▶ Apartment building with security at the door and supervision and programming in the building

# Why Supported Housing?

- ▶ Brain dysfunction makes decision making and executive brain function difficult
- ▶ Memory issues affect life skills/employment
- ▶ Parenting support
- ▶ Social support in community and small group settings
- ▶ Build community capacity to utilize the strengths and support areas of needs of these individuals

# Why Supported Housing? (continued..)

- ▶ Burnout of caregivers, couch surfing, shelter or they are out of the children's services system
- ▶ Prevention of involvement with justice
- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Positive community involvement

# Where would this be developed?

- ▶ At present we are working to have this type of residence in High Level.
- ▶ The residence needs to be in a community with access to supports such as mental health, counselling, appropriate programming

# Providing Barrier Free supported living will:

- ▶ Provide supervised, safe housing 24/7
- ▶ On site supports, mentoring, advocacy
- ▶ Increase health, mental health and quality of life
- ▶ Support employment/employers
- ▶ Decrease use of emergency services
- ▶ Decrease involvement in justice system
- ▶ Provide parenting support on site

# Mackenzie Housing – A Pilot Project

- ▶ 2008 – Strategic planning session was held for Supported Housing
- ▶ 2009 – Housing committee set up
- ▶ 2010 – presentations were made to High Level Town Council and Mackenzie Housing at which support for the project was given
- ▶ 2012 – Investor voiced interest in project

# Mackenzie Housing – A Pilot Project

- ▶ 2012 – A proposal was submitted to Mr. Oberle and Human Services
- ▶ 2012 – Pilot project was supported by the CMC for FASD and Human Services
- ▶ January 2013 – Start – up funding received
- ▶ January 2013 – Verbal confirmation that funding available for a 3 year pilot project
- ▶ March 2013 – Program Developer Hired

# The Pilot Project

- ▶ First of this type in the world
- ▶ Evaluation funding tied to project
- ▶ 3 year pilot project
- ▶ Investor willing to take risk
- ▶ Collaborations with all agencies and communities being sought

# Future

- ▶ 31 youths who will be turning 18 in the next 3 years
- ▶ 52 more youths in the next 10 years
- ▶ Possible total of 133 units needed by 2022 if our client numbers remain the same

# Supported independent Living Program in Mackenzie Region:

- ▶ Questions
- ▶ Comments