

# News Release

## CASA Mental Health

### **A Time for Rebirth | CASA unveils totem pole in honour of late donor**

CASA Mental Health is honoured to unveil “Time for Rebirth”: a modern totem pole designed by the late Ben Davidson.

Ben was an acclaimed Haida Gwaii artist and CASA champion. He mentored youth and raised funds for CASA families. He passed away in 2020 at the age of 44. Ben designed this totem to honour, guide and protect all CASA Mental Health families and staff. CASA is grateful for this lasting reminder of Ben’s friendship and love.

Using the symbol of a tree, “Time for Rebirth” reflects the power of our connections to past, present and future from where our strength and our knowledge emerge. Beginning at the base of the tree, there are three feathers or roots to honour our connections to our ancestors and Elders. As the trunk grows up from the earth, it transforms into branches. From these branches, an eagle and raven honour our connections to our parents, mentors and teachers; their wings are outstretched to guide and protect. The salmon come out from behind the eagle and raven to represent the youth who protect our knowledge and bring it into the future.

The title is fitting because it has also been a time of rebirth for CASA Mental Health, with new programs, a new name and visual identity, and services expanding throughout the province—all possible because of generous donors like Ben.

Prior to the official unveiling on Thursday, there will be a private ceremony where Elders of Treaty Six Territories will welcome the Haida gift to its new home. “Time for Rebirth” will be displayed in the lobby of CASA Centre. Donors are invited to a public reveal on Thursday evening.

### **Media are invited to CASA Centre ahead of the public reveal of the totem pole.**

**When:** Thursday, March 23 at 3:00 P.M.

**Where:** CASA Centre, 10645 63 Ave. NW, Edmonton

**Who:** Tawni Davidson, Ben’s wife; Carrie Avveduti, CASA Mental Health; Nadine Samycia, CASA Mental Health

### **We kindly request media confirm attendance prior the event.**

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