



**SERVICES DE COUNSELLING**  
HEARST - KAPUSKASING - SMOOTH ROCK FALLS  
**COUNSELLING SERVICES**

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Cochrane, Ontario - HKS Counselling Services (HKSCS) is pleased to announce the growth of their Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO) program. On March 1st, 2023, HKSCS will become the new lead agency responsible to deliver the VCAO program in the communities of Smooth Rock Falls and Cochrane. The VCAO program is fully funded by the Province of Ontario. HKS Counselling Services will continue to work with Cochrane – Smooth Rock Falls Victim Services aux victimes and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) during this transition period.

*“We want to reassure clients and community partners that timely access to quality services remains our priority during this transition period. As we move forward with this transfer of services, we will take meaningful actions to establish a positive working relationship with our community partners that is built on trust, respect, and professionalism. We have a great team in all the communities we serve, and we look forward to having the Cochrane area join our organization”, says Steve Fillion, Executive Director at HKSCS.*

HKS Counselling Services is already well established in the communities of Cochrane and Smooth Rock Falls offering a wide range of services in both official languages to help improve the mental health, wellness and safety of its clients through quality care and services. This transfer will ensure a local continuity of services and improve integration of services to those who may need them.

For further information, please contact Steve Fillion, Executive Director, at 705-335-8468 or by email at [Steve.Fillion@hkscounselling.ca](mailto:Steve.Fillion@hkscounselling.ca). For questions related to client services, please contact Michelle Gosselin, Program Supervisor at 705-335-8468 or the Victim Services Support Line at 1-877-264-4208.

