

## Husband wants more government help for drug addicts

Wife brutally slain in Mill woods home

By **ELIZA BARLOW**, **Edmonton Sun**

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The shattered husband of a 25-year-old woman brutally slain in her Mill Woods home says the government needs to do more to help people ravaged by drugs.

Mike Butler, 26, says his brother Ken Butler, 24, had been using drugs since junior high and was on a sharp downward spiral of crack and meth addiction for the last four or five years.

Now, Ken Butler is facing murder charges in the death of Mike's wife Stephanie Rae Butler, whose body was found Saturday in the home she shared with Mike at 4204 38 St.

Police say a man broke into the Butlers' house Friday night and killed Stephanie shortly after he beat a 61-year-old Co-op cab driver within inches of his life.

Last Wednesday, Ken was arrested after allegedly trying to break into his brother's home.

Mike, who left Edmonton on Friday to attend a basketball tournament in Red Deer, blames Ken's crippling drug addiction and "sibling rivalry" for Stephanie's senseless death.

"Ken is definitely addicted to drugs – crack-cocaine, meth," Mike told Sun Media.

"The drugs messed up his mind and there was no help for him to fix his mind."

Mike said the family had called the cops on Ken over and over again, only to have him arrested and then released.

They tried to get help from AADAC and other agencies and when that failed, they bought Ken a house in Regina to put some distance between him and his family, said Mike.

Read the full story in Wednesday's Edmonton Sun.