



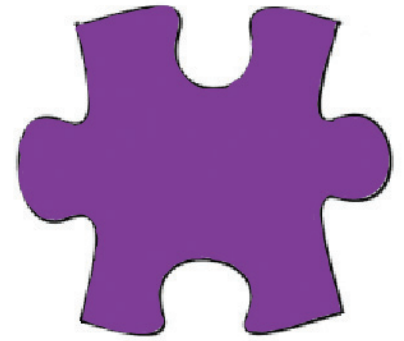
# ACWS

Alberta Council of  
Women's Shelters



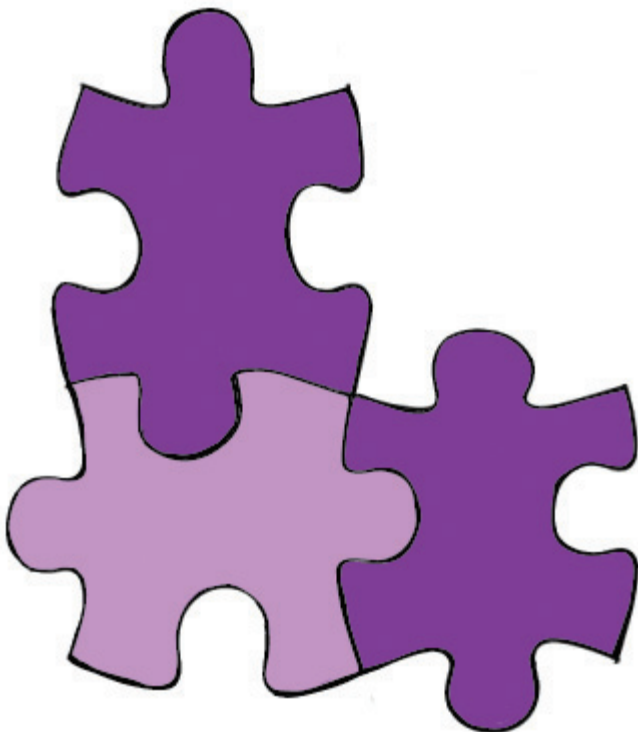
**2013 - 2014 Annual Report**



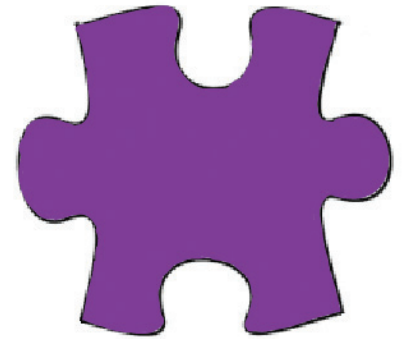


**“I would love to work myself out of a job—that means violence against women and children will no longer exist.”**

SHELTER WORKER, CALGARY, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT



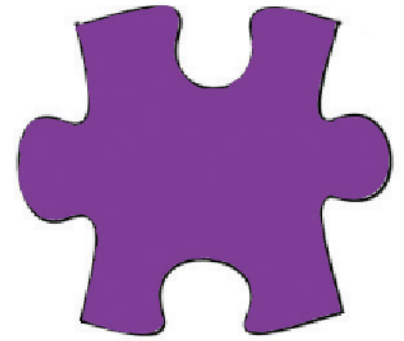
## In the past year . . .



Nine individuals received the Human Services Leadership Bursary, averaging slightly over \$4,000 each.

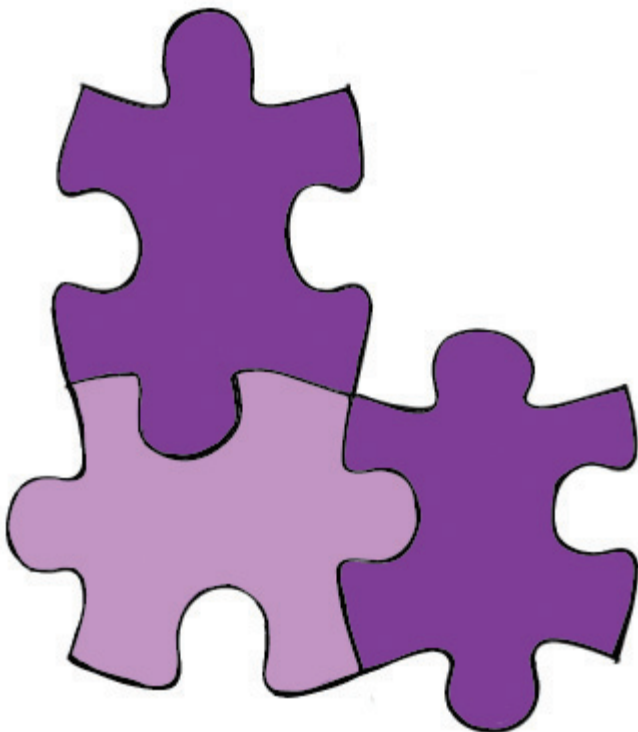
11 shelter workers accessed the IODE training funds on 32 occasions utilizing \$9,100.



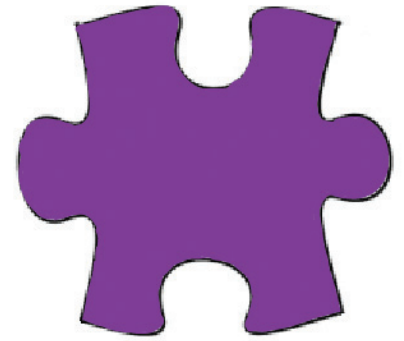


**“We need to change our priorities to really start working with our youth and children, engage men in the dialogue and process of change, and begin to shift societies view and norms when it comes to violence against women.”**

SHELTER WORKER, MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT

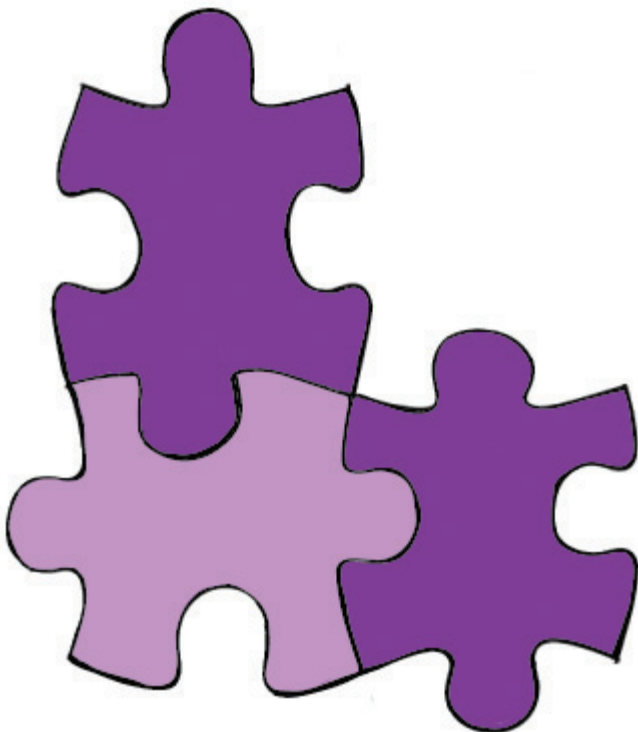


## In the past year . . .



45 individuals were trained to be trainers on the Danger Assessment by ACWS.

124 individuals were certified on the Danger Assessment by Shelters.



# ACWS 2014 Annual Report

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# About ACWS

Photo Credit: "Alberta's Paradise," Pedro Escobar



## ACWS Vision

We believe in a world free from violence and abuse.

## ACWS Mission

To support our members and work together to end domestic violence and abuse.

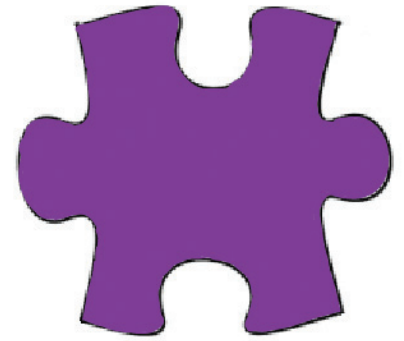
## ACWS Board (2013-2014)

Brenda Brochu, President (June, 2013-present)  
Brenda Rebman, Vice President (July, 2011-present)  
Jasmin Greavett, Secretary (July, 2013-present)  
Janene Moch, Treasurer (July, 2008-present)  
Brian Simpson (July, 2013-present)  
Edna Willier (July, 2007-present)  
Gaye Warthe (July, 2013-present)  
Kelly-Ann Fenney (July, 2013-present)  
Lewis Cardinal (July, 2013-present)  
Lois Day (July, 2008-present)  
Marjorie Luger (July, 2007-present)  
Nora-Lee Rear (June, 2011- May, 2014)  
Patricia Garrett (July, 2010-present)

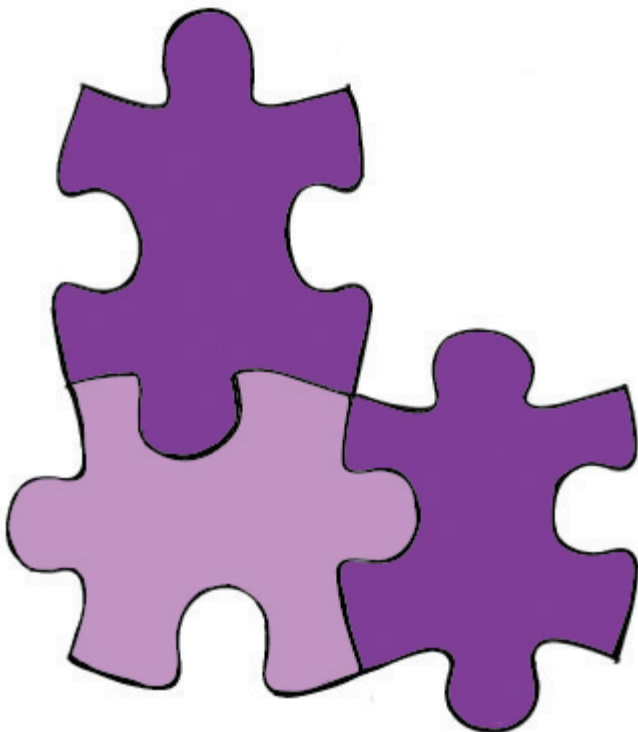
## ACWS Office

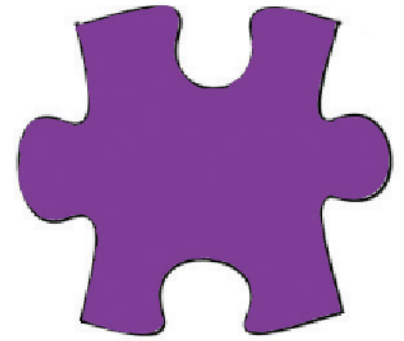
Jan Reimer, Executive Director  
Carolyn Goard, Director of Member Programs & Services  
Ken Seto, Finance & Administration Administrator  
Christie Lavan, Communications & Partnerships Advisor  
Jennifer Ness, Office Administrator  
Kati Nurminen, Office Administrator (Maternity Leave Replacement)  
Amy Mercure, Evaluation & Research Specialist  
Cat Van Wielingen, Evaluation & Research Specialist (Maternity Leave Replacement)  
Colleen Pirie, Community Liaison & Program Development Associate

## In the past year . . .



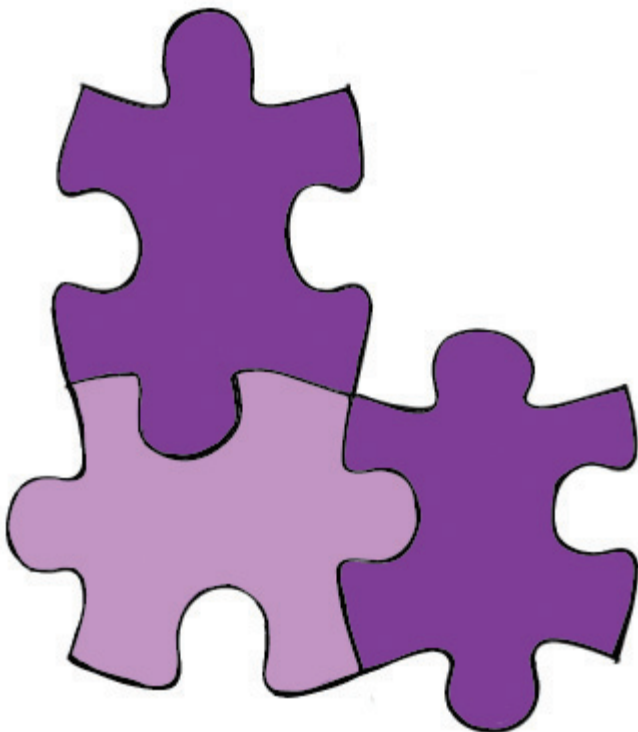
The Domestic Violence Survivor Assessment Tool and Children's curriculum training was provided to 16 shelter staff.



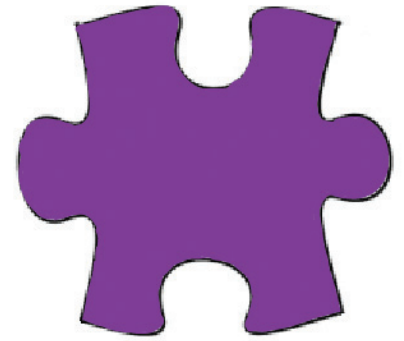


**“Community awareness of domestic violence is still way behind, the thoughts are still prevalent in our community and across the Province and Country, that it is a woman’s fault, and ‘why doesn’t she just leave.’”**

SHELTER WORKER, ST. PAUL, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT



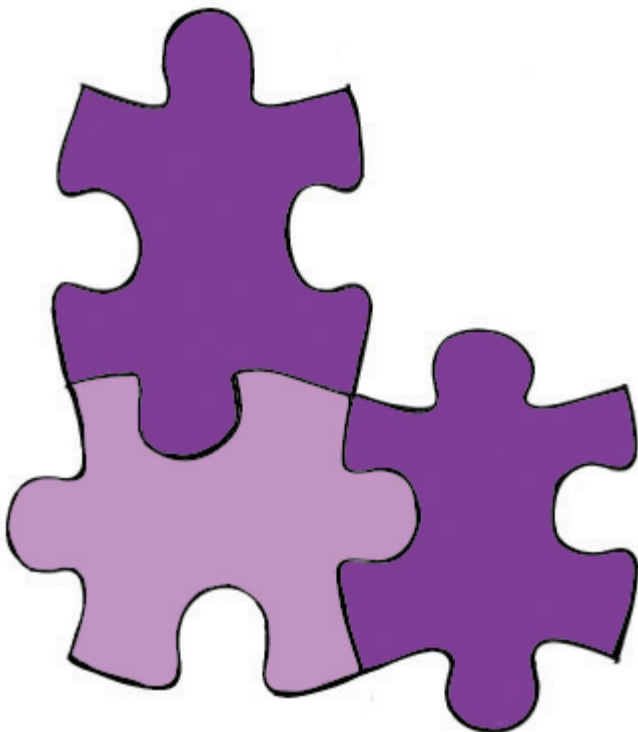
## In the past year . . .

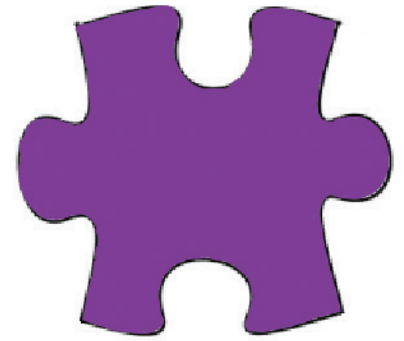


The Ad Hoc Shelter Director Data Committee met seven times together and three times with government.

Four Shelter Director's Meetings took place for a total of seven days.

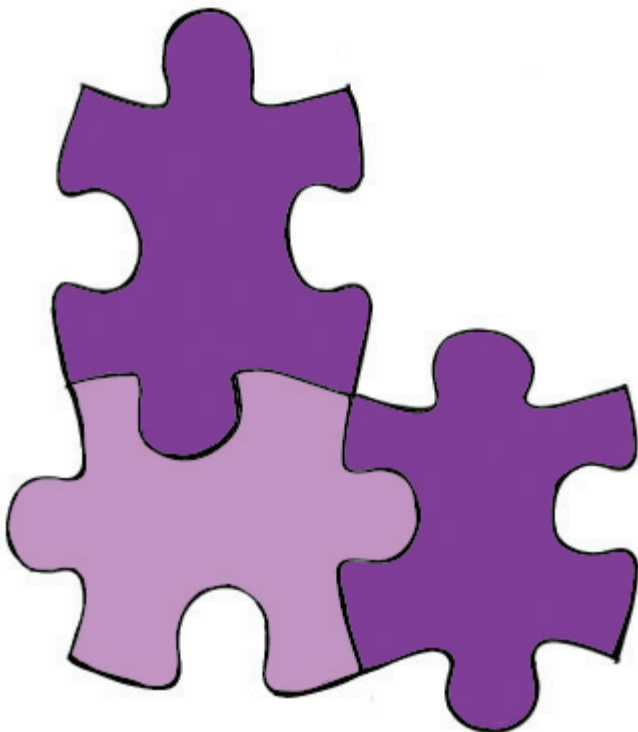
The Second-Stage Shelter Committee met eight times.



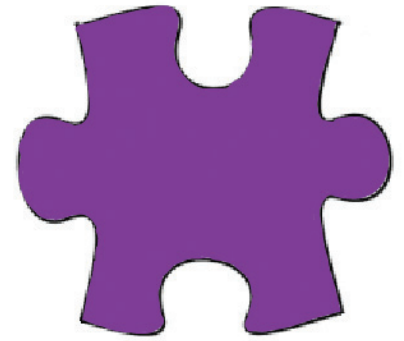


**“Due to the lack of affordable housing women with or without children are returning to abusers more often.”**

SHELTER WORKER, HINTON, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT

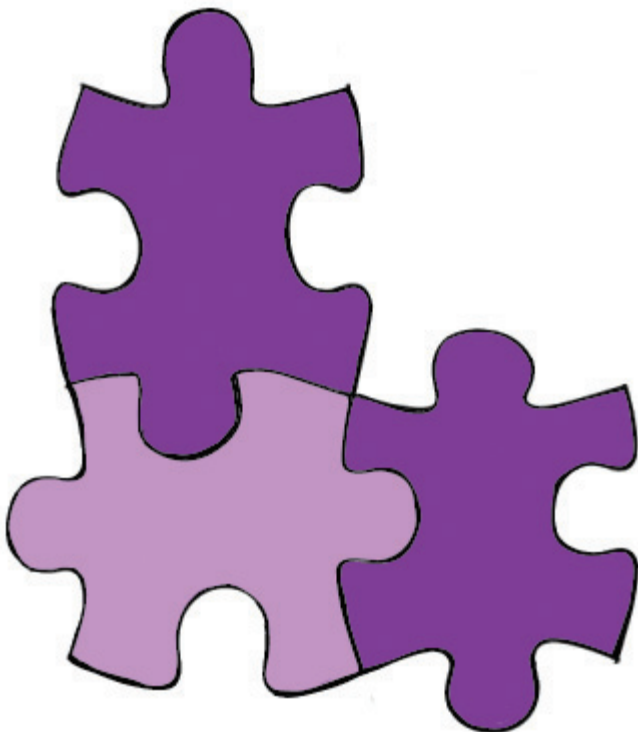


## In the past year . . .



Over 90% of member respondents were satisfied with Outcome Tracker.

Over 90% described ACWS Outcome Tracker support as helpful.





A woman with vibrant purple hair is shown from the waist up, wearing a matching purple ruffled halter-neck top and a wide purple belt with a gold buckle. Her arms are raised in a gesture of joy or triumph, and she is looking upwards with a smile. The background is a soft-focus beach scene with waves and a clear sky. The text "Our Valued Supporters" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Our Valued Supporters

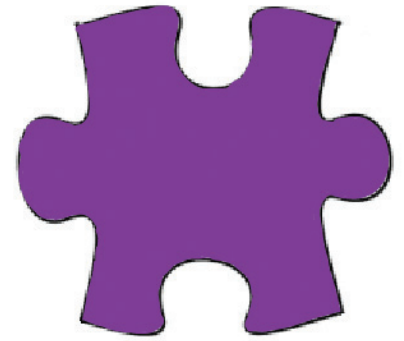
Photo credit: "IMG\_4076GM," Ginger MacPhee



## Our Valued Supporters

Alberta Treasury Branch  
Anonymous Donor  
Bee-Clean Building Maintenance  
Brenda Strafford Foundation  
Canadian Women's Foundation  
Carol Allen  
Cenovus Employee Foundation  
City of Edmonton  
CN  
Devon Canada  
Dianne and Irving Kipnes Foundation  
Divino Espirito Santo Das Crianças  
Donna Hammerlindl  
Douglas Goss  
Enbridge  
EPCOR  
Government of Alberta – Community Incentive Program  
Government of Alberta – Community Spirit Program  
Government of Alberta – Department of Justice  
Government of Alberta – Prevention of Family Violence & Bullying  
Government of Canada – Department of Justice  
Health Science Association of Alberta  
Ledcor Corporation  
Mammoet  
National Crime Prevention Centre  
Nicholas Potvin  
Patrick McDonald  
Precision Drilling Corporation  
Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees' Charitable Donations Fund  
Service Credit Union  
Setarip Computers  
Shaw Communications  
Status of Women Canada  
Stephen Mandel  
Syncrude  
TELUS Corporation  
Union 52 Benevolent Society

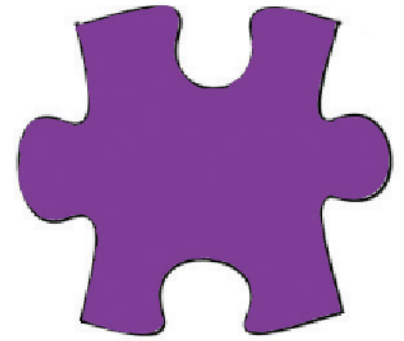
## In the past year . . .



Five on-reserve shelters participated in delivering training on the Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment tool for participating staff.

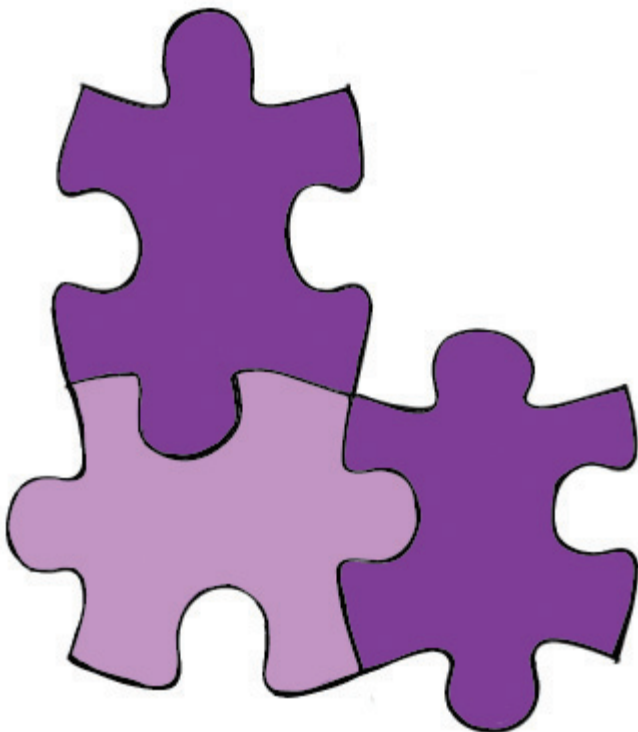
The Silent Witness Exhibit was shared with five organizations for their events.



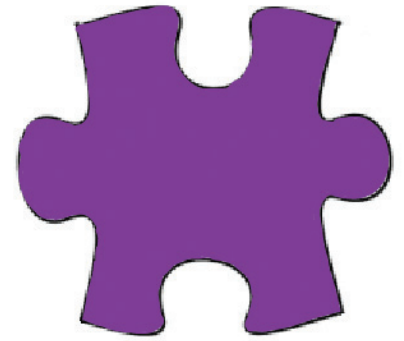


**“I believe that a difference is being made in these women’s lives: many walk into the shelter feeling helpless and alone, while walking out empowered, independent, and optimistic about their futures.”**

SHELTER WORKER, CALGARY, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT

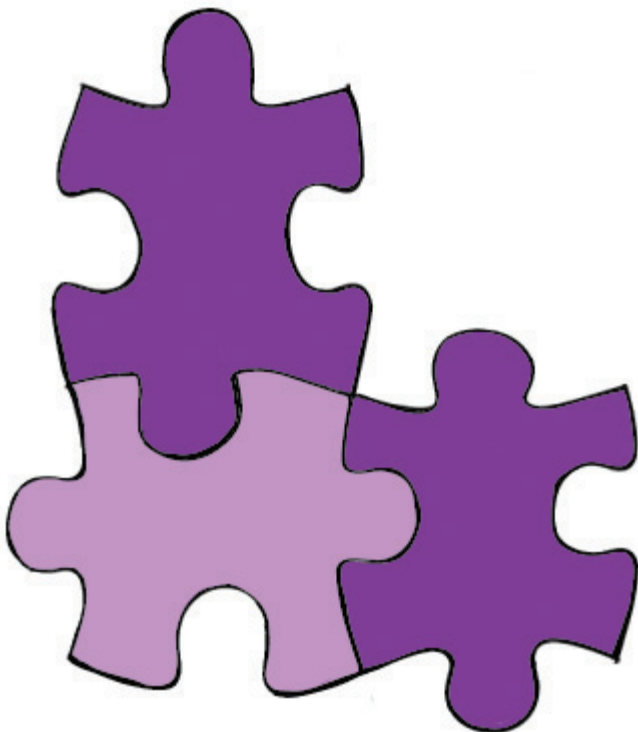


## In the past year . . .



41 individuals attended Outcome Tracker training.

Six shelters were provided with face-to-face Outcome Tracker Training.



The image features several teepees silhouetted against a bright, hazy sky at sunset or sunrise. The sun is positioned on the left side, creating a strong glow and casting long shadows. The teepees are dark, with their characteristic conical shapes and bundles of sticks protruding from the tops. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

# Leadership Messages

Photo credit: "Teepees and Sun," Peter Quinn





## President

### **Alberta Family Violence Death Review Committee**

The Alberta government created a Family Violence Death Review Committee during the past year, which is something the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) has long been advocating. Not only that, ACWS was invited to nominate a representative to the committee. Our nominee was Karen Pease of the Community Crisis Society in Strathmore, and we were pleased that she was officially appointed by the government. Karen and the other committee members met in February and are in the process of reviewing the circumstances of selected deaths caused by family violence in this province. They will then make recommendations based on that review.

### **Strategic Plan**

The ACWS Board met in Edmonton in September to develop a new strategic plan. The decision was made to focus on just three strategic goals, which are as follows:

- 1) ACWS, in collaboration with its members, provides leadership to enhance shelter-based responses to domestic violence.
- 2) ACWS leverages its relationships to mobilize public support for effective responses to domestic violence.
- 3) ACWS is well-resourced in order to provide quality services and effect change.

Specific target outcomes include equitable funding for all shelters, knowledgeable and engaged members, support for shelters in delivering quality services, Board members who act as effective ambassadors for ACWS, members carrying a common message to their communities, increased public awareness of shelters and the work they do in Alberta, ACWS having an up-to-date governance model, aggregated shelter data used to effect change, and ACWS having increased, diversified and sustainable resources for its operations.

### **Financial Challenges**

Having enough resources to operate ACWS effectively turned out to be a serious challenge during the past year. Funds from grants, fundraising and donations were all down from the previous year. We were unable to continue our Emergency Fund or our Making Amends program for shelters outside the two major cities. Funding for Walking the Path Together ended on April 1, 2014, creating a hardship for most of our on-reserve shelter members. Our basic operating grant from the provincial government has remained unchanged for several years, which means we struggled to do more with less administratively, even though we are called upon to do more and more data collection and provide more and more computer training and support. In response to this situation, the Board made the difficult decision to raise membership fees for all except the on-reserve shelters. We appreciate the understanding and support we received from members at this difficult time. It was the first fee increase for ACWS members in many years, and it was large enough to make a difference to our bottom line. However, the Governance Committee has drafted a

policy requiring a review of membership fees every two years, so that large increases can be avoided in the future.

## **Comprehensive Policy Review**

In keeping with the new bylaws approved at our AGM in June, 2013 and with our focus on a governance model for the ACWS Board, the Board undertook a comprehensive policy review during the past year. The Governance Committee is going through each section of the policy manual systematically. The decision was made to hire Toni Lashbrook to help with this process, since it involves a lot of writing and she is familiar with our bylaws and strategic plan. The recommendations of the committee will go to the Board for final approval during the current fiscal year.

## **ACWS Webinar**

As a way of promoting engagement of members, ACWS initiated a webinar during the past year. Held on Feb. 21 during the noon hour, it focused on “History-Making Teams for Not-for-Profits,” with Vic Maraj as keynote speaker. An additional webinar was held in this calendar year on April 8th. This time the topic was “Police and Women’s Shelter Working Relationship Guidelines,” with a panel of experts leading the discussion.

## **Advocacy**

Jan and I attempted several times to meet with Alberta Human Services Minister Manmeet Bhullar. Several planned meetings were cancelled by the Minister’s staff. In March, the Board had a lively discussion about issues to take to the provincial government.

## **Aboriginal Discussion Paper Ad Hoc Committee**

During the past year, the Board created an Aboriginal Discussion Paper Ad Hoc Committee, with Board Member Lewis Cardinal as Chair. This committee is charged with developing a consultation process for creating an ACWS Statement of Commitment to Aboriginal Peoples. The goal is to ensure that, whatever decisions are made, they are always viewed through an Aboriginal lens to ensure inclusion and respect. So far, preliminary discussions have been held with the on-reserve shelter directors and the director of the Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society. Sadly, Awo Taan did not renew its membership at the end of this fiscal year. I believe that coming up with an acceptable Statement of Commitment and then implementing it effectively is one of the most important challenges facing ACWS. I think it will help determine what and how much we are able to accomplish in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Brochu  
ACWS President  
June 2, 2014

## Executive Director

In some ways, it has been a year of endings and beginnings.

We concluded our fiscal management of the emerging Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses near the start of this fiscal year – they are now on their own and growing!

Walking the Path Together, a five-year project with five of our on-reserve members concluded in March. This shelter-based programme was developed collaboratively by a Project Guidance Circle and delivered in the five First Nations communities, in partnership with families who use shelter services. This project developed intervention tools in a First Nations context to be in harmony with the gifts, history and vision of First Nations peoples. Resources for staff to support women and children experiencing violence on-reserve include the guide entitled, *Walk Proud, Dance Proud: Footprints on a Healing Journey*, and the cultural adaptation of the Danger Assessment.

There were very promising outcomes from this project and it demonstrated a \$5.42 Social Return on Investment. We were disappointed to learn that our application to Civil Forfeiture to extend this worthwhile project was not successful - however we will keep trying to find other ways to build on what has been accomplished.

ACWS learned so much on the journey with the five shelters and project partners. In addition to having outcomes to inform practice and interventions, there have been big learnings for us around learning collaboratives, the privileges of the dominant culture, intergenerational trauma and the impact of residential schools and assimilation on Indigenous people.

ACWS member organizations began using Outcome Tracker on September 1, 2010. Since then, ACWS and a group of stalwart Shelter Directors on the Ad Hoc Shelter Director Data Committee have been working to support finalization and standardization of the shared data set. This specific part of the shared data set, "Schedule D" required intensive work with the province and these negotiations are finally "d" done! Thanks to all who participated in this major effort on behalf of all members.

We were saddened to learn that Portage College decided to de-commit the Women's Shelter Certificate Program due to funding constraints and low participation rates. This training was the only training specifically tailored to the needs of women's shelters –and many shelters benefited from this training over the years. And, in this last year, the Safe Communities grant, the Student Temporary Employment Grant and the Community Spirit Grant were all terminated, which has added to our financial challenges.

In spite of this, we began to embark on many positive initiatives. Our involvement on the provincial Inter Agency Council on Homelessness allowed us to insert the needs of women, children and seniors escaping abuse into the conversation. We think the province is listening to this message more than ever before and have worked with us

# ACWS 2014 Annual Report

this last year to develop metrics for use in developing a second-stage shelter funding model. The second-stage shelters have also developed a common outcome measurement framework, to be implemented in 2014-2015. This leaves us in an excellent position to advance the case for ongoing, durable funding for second-stage shelters.

ACWS' role in the province's Workforce Alliance is resulting in continued commitment to understanding the needs of the Alberta shelter workforce and raising remuneration to fair levels – although we still have a long way to go. Member participation in the ACWS Shelter Salary Survey has been critical in equipping ACWS to advocate for additional funding. This spring's provincial budget saw one of the largest increases for women's shelter funding ever: 70 additional beds were funded across the province; 19.5 outreach positions added; and an additional 5% in funding provided to shelters to allocate to enhance staff salaries and benefits.

We have also had an impact on the workplace, with our Domestic Violence and the Workplace programme. Through conference presentations, workshops and training sessions over 290 people were reached with our programme content.

We launched our Leading Change call to action. Leading Change is about creating a culture shift and empowering individuals to lead from where they stand to end a culture that permits woman-abuse.

We brought to close many years of meetings to craft the Alberta Shelters and Police Working Relationship Guidelines. Now begins the collaborative work to ensure successful implementation.

While we have been working with men in gender violence prevention for over a decade now, we are broadening this aspect of our advocacy. There were two exciting developments over the past year: First, Status of Women Canada funded the Working Together project that assesses the needs and wants of women and girls, men and boys in urban and rural settings with a number of community partners. The model of community engagement built through this project can be used by shelters and others to lead change in their areas of influence.

The second development within our public education portfolio continues our work with Jackson Katz, founder of Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP), and adaptation of the Bystander model. We are working with Alberta's two CFL teams on a public education and awareness programme that trains select players on facilitating public education sessions and participating in public awareness messaging. During the training, players stayed well into the night talking about violence and abuse against women and how to have these conversations. Leading Change: The Alberta CFL Project will be emerging this football season, leading up to a launch this fall. We look forward to working with our members to leverage this work in their respective community as the program unfolds.

At last year's AGM, members approved a significant change to governance. We had many new board members join the team, both from our membership and the

# ACWS 2014 Annual Report

community at large. They have been a very positive source of support and action. Our strategic plan was reviewed, updated and we are now in a position to nimbly respond to the rapid changes that we have almost come to expect.

Shelters across the province were ready to help their colleagues in Southern Alberta overcome evacuations, power failures and security risks during the floods. ACWS set up online tools to assist in communicating bed availability and shelter needs. Affected shelters' staff and boards worked miracles under very difficult circumstances to continue to provide services to women and children.

Training was organized for our members on the Danger Assessment, on working with children, and on Outcome Tracker. Nine individuals from shelters took advantage of our Leadership Bursary funded by the province.

Indeed, there have been many changes at the provincial level: Results Based Budgeting; the Social Policy Framework; a new domestic violence strategy, *Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework To End Family Violence In Alberta*; the Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness; a sexual violence framework; a child welfare review; and so on. ACWS has worked hard to keep our members current on the impact of these changes and ensure that the shelter success story in preventing, intervening and ending domestic violence is well understood by government. At the ACWS Shelter Directors Meetings we have begun work with our members to develop consistent messaging to ensure that our voice is well heard across the province.

So, it has been a year of endings and beginnings. Whether an end or a start, we feel our collaboration with you growing stronger and bringing us closer to our vision of a world free from violence and abuse.

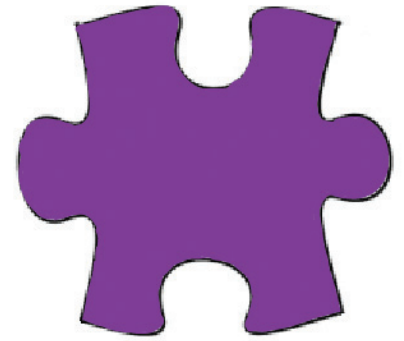
ACWS staff would like to thank you for the many supportive comments and e-mails during the membership fee increase this spring, particularly as we know what an ongoing challenge funding is for all our members. We work very hard to provide great value to members, and hearing such affirming comments from so many of you inspires us to keep going!

I would like to acknowledge our steadfast funders for their ongoing support: they are listed at the beginning of this report.

ACWS could not keep going without a highly dedicated staff team who cares deeply about the work that shelters do. I would like to thank Carolyn Goard, Christie Lavan, Jennifer Ness (and her maternity leave replacement, Kati Nurminen), Amy Mecure (and her maternity leave replacement Cat Van Wielingen), Ken Seto, Colleen Pirie, as well as our DV and your Workplace project consultant, Shannon Leigh.

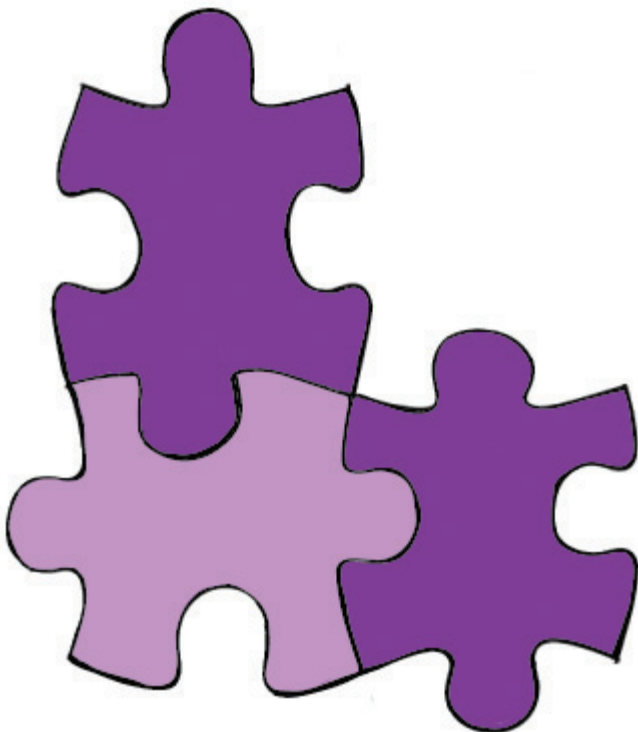
Jan Reimer  
ACWS Executive Director  
June 4, 2014

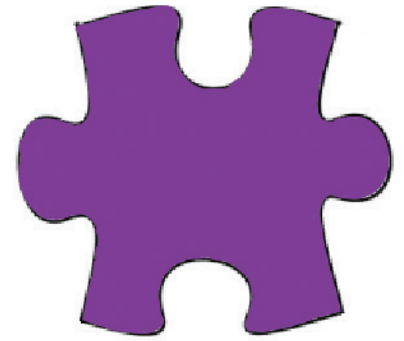
## In the past year . . .



ACWS issued 17 media releases.

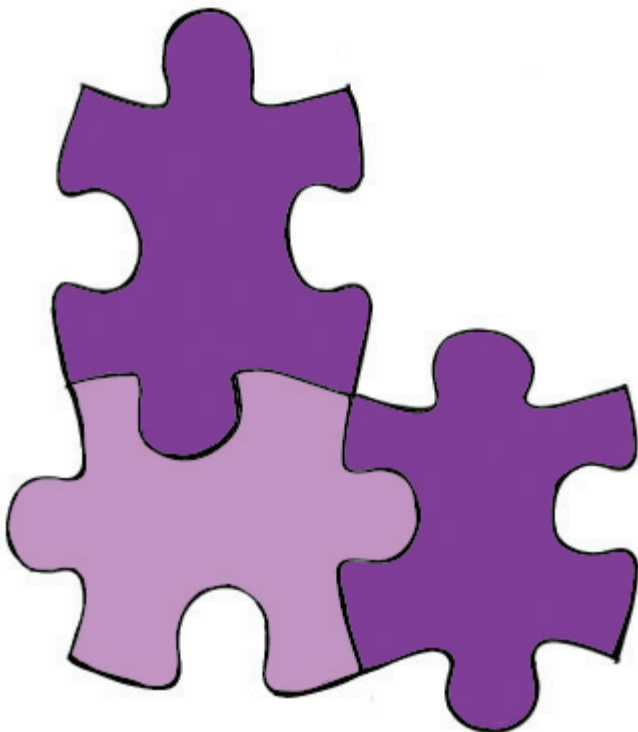
ACWS published two Fact Sheets: Cities and Children.



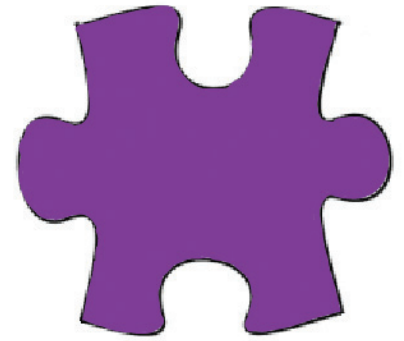


**“In child support we see the little ones arriving holding onto their mothers and not wanting to let go and over time they become more comfortable. They see the playroom, the colors, toys and they become interested in play. Their eyes wide, the children plunge into the fun and do what kids are supposed to do: play, make friends...”**

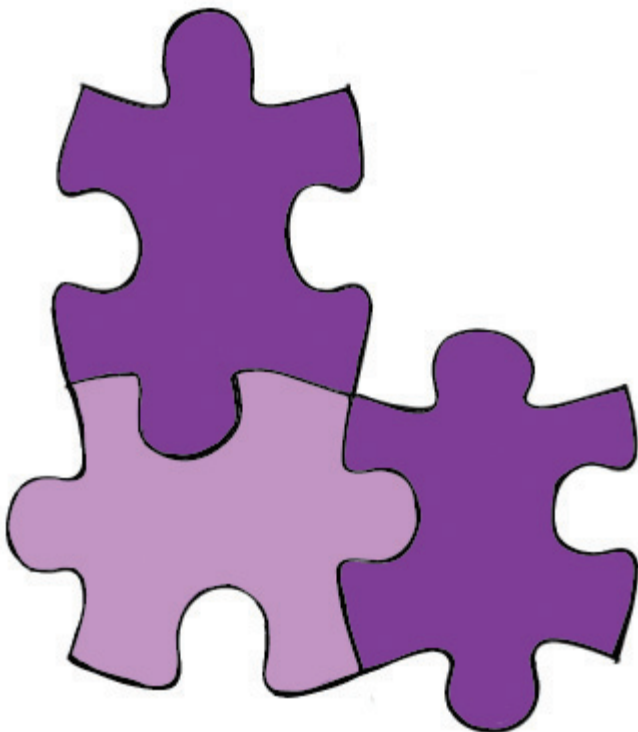
SHELTER WORKER, SHERWOOD PARK, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT



## In the past year . . .



Our first Domestic Violence and Your Workplace organizational baseline survey was completed with the City of Edmonton with over 800 staff participating. Additionally, over 290 people were reached through workshops, training, and conference presentations.





A photograph of a city skyline across a body of water. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The city features several prominent skyscrapers, including a tall, dark brown one in the center and a blue glass one to the right. A dense line of green trees separates the water from the buildings. The text 'Committee Report' is overlaid in white, bold font in the center of the image.

# Committee Report



## Board Governance Committee

The Board Governance Committee had a busy year in 2013-14. David Monroe and I chaired a sub-committee through very progressive changes to the structure of the ACWS Board. The end of the 2012-13 fiscal year saw the Organizational Review wrap up and set the stage for a new beginning.

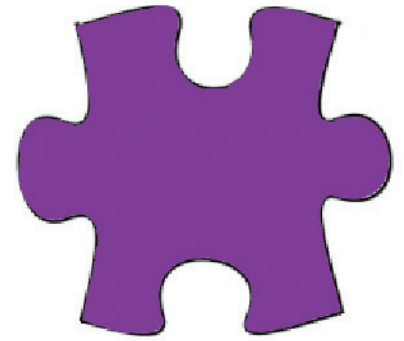
There were amendments to the by-laws which laid the foundation for the structure changes. The bylaws were approved at the 2013 AGM, and approved by the province in early July. I have to give a lot of credit to David Monroe and the staff at the ACWS office for their extensive work on the by-laws. The structure changes gave us four “At Large” members not involved in any Shelter.

At the September meeting of ACWS the Governance Committee for the 2013-14 year was formed. It consists of Lois Day (Chair), Brenda Brochu, Lewis Cardinal, and Kelly-Ann Fenney. Our first order of business was to decide how to revamp the Policy Manual, including Terms of Reference for Board Committees, to bring it up to the standards of the by-laws. Other changes from the Organizational Review were beginning to become reality.

At the November meeting of the ACWS Board, the Governance Committee was supported in hiring Toni Lashbrook to do a comprehensive review to the entire Policy Manual to make it consistent with the Strategic Plan and the by-laws of the organization. Jan Reimer’s title became Executive Director of ACWS. Several electronic meetings were held to bring the Policy Manual up to date, with the intention of presenting it for Board consideration at their 2014 Retreat.

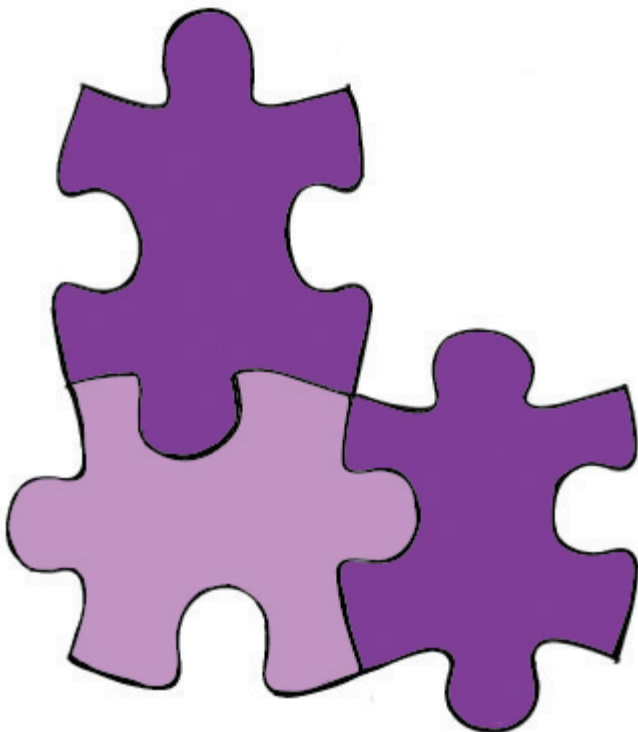
In closing, I have to say the inclusion of Public members has been a very beneficial to the Governance Committee. Kelly-Ann and Lewis have been an enormous help in keeping us on task and grounded in the well-being of the organization. I have enjoyed my time on the ACWS board and leave with sincere wishes for great success in reducing and eliminating domestic violence in Alberta and the world.

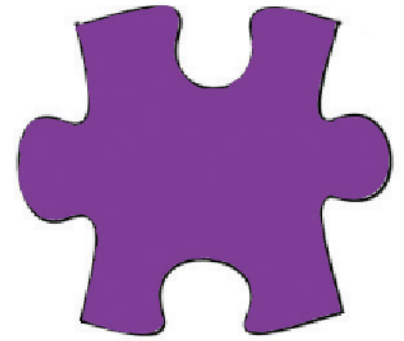
Lois Day  
Committee Chair



**“Finding housing is really hard, am glad that the Outreach [staff member] is helping me to look for places and to go with me to view.”**

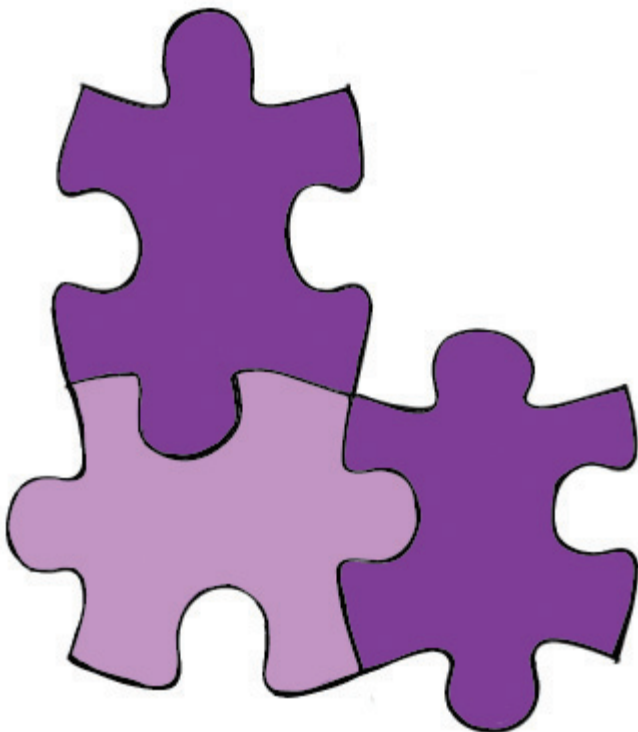
WOMAN IN SHELTER, PINCHER CREEK, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT

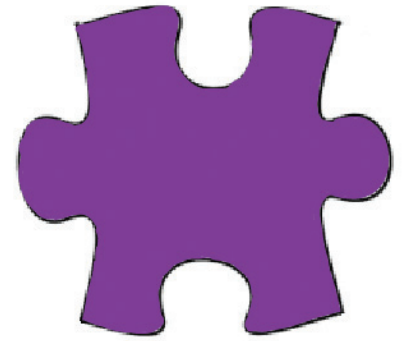




**“When a troubled teen gains enough trust to tell you their greatest fears, you realize how important your job is.”**

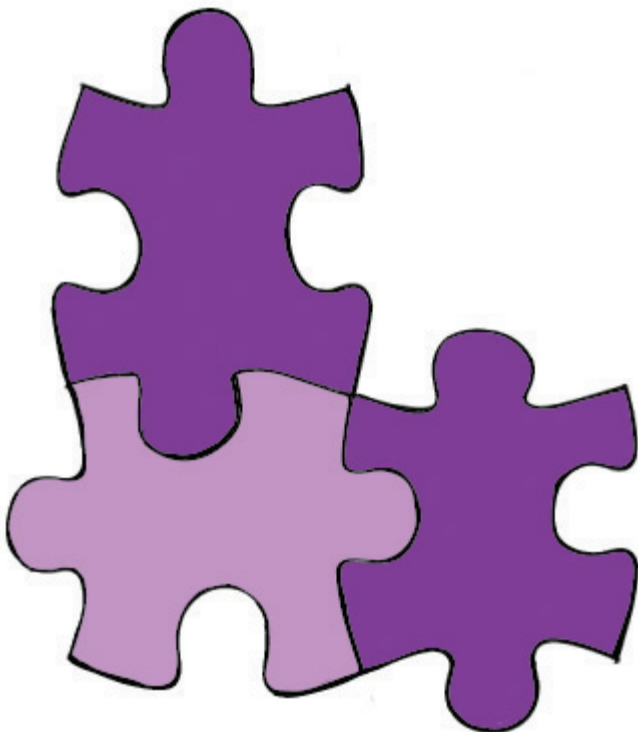
SHELTER WORKER, MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT





**“You guys have saved my life I don’t know where I would be without this place.”**

WOMAN IN SHELTER, EDMONTON, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT



A black and white photograph showing the silhouettes of a woman and a child walking away from the camera on a grassy hill. The woman is on the right, wearing a long-sleeved top and pants, and the child is on the left, wearing a hoodie and leggings. They are holding hands. The background is a bright, clear sky. The text 'Financial Statements' is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Financial Statements





**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF  
WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

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Auditor's Report	1
Statement of Financial Position	2
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	3
Statement of Operations	4
Statement of Cash Flow	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 – 13
Grant Schedule	14

# Skolney & Company

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## Chartered Accountants

Glenn W. Skolney, B.Comm., C.A. (ext. 301)  
Judy Vansveenandt, B.Comm., C.A. (ext. 304)  
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## AUDITOR'S REPORT

To The Members of  
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

We have audited the statement of financial position of Alberta Council of Women's Shelters as at March 31, 2014 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flow for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's responsibility for the financial statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditor's responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

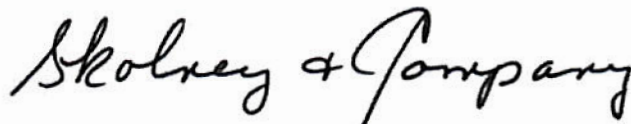
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

### *Basis for qualified opinion*

In common with many charitable organizations, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters derives revenue from donations the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to recorded contributions, the excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended March 31, 2014 and March 31, 2013, and net assets for both the March 31, 2014 and 2013 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2014 was modified accordingly, because of the possible effects of this scope limitation.

### *Qualified opinion*

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the "Basis for Qualified Opinion" paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters at March 31, 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.



June 13, 2014  
Edmonton, Alberta

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT MARCH 31, 2014**

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2 and 6)	522,157	365,191
Grant receivable	106,482	46,701
Prepaid	1,000	1,000
GST receivable	12,214	22,436
<u>Guaranteed investment certificate</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>
	841,853	935,328
<u>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Notes 2 and 4)</u>	<u>7,781</u>	<u>8,929</u>
	<u>849,634</u>	<u>944,257</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	47,476	56,753
Unexpended grants (Note 3)	421,835	417,340
<u>Deferred contributions related to operations</u>	<u>14,866</u>	<u>47,074</u>
	484,177	521,167
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	245,800	297,285
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS (Note 5)	111,876	116,876
<u>INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>7,781</u>	<u>8,929</u>
	365,457	423,090
	<u>849,634</u>	<u>944,257</u>

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

	2014			2013	
	Investment in Property and Equipment \$	Internally Restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	Total \$	Total \$
BALANCE, beginning of year	8,929	116,876	297,285	423,090	422,183
Excess of (expenses over revenues) revenue over expenses	(2,240)	-	(55,393)	(57,633)	907
Transfers to (from) reserves (Note 5)	-	(5,000)	5,000	-	-
Investment in property and equipment	1,092	-	(1,092)	-	-
<u>BALANCE, end of year</u>	<u>7,781</u>	<u>111,876</u>	<u>245,800</u>	<u>365,457</u>	<u>423,090</u>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Grants (Schedule 1)	1,085,448	1,824,101
Government of Alberta	250,000	250,000
Donations	104,796	89,053
Fundraising	81,463	85,620
Membership fees	31,500	30,900
Interest and other income	25,910	20,078
Registration and workshop fees	0	81,797
Casino revenue	0	76,731
Status of Women Canada	0	40,000
	1,579,117	2,498,280
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Wages and employee benefits	846,972	1,141,528
Program expenses	573,430	1,066,459
Recruitment and training	70,124	105,159
Occupancy costs	39,622	81,026
Office and miscellaneous	37,572	40,483
Annual General Meeting	23,457	13,500
Repairs and maintenance	19,024	3,150
Shelter Emergency Distributions	9,996	18,416
Telephone	7,386	14,370
Professional fees	4,807	7,484
Insurance	2,120	3,265
Casino expense	-	126
Amortization	2,240	2,407
	1,636,750	2,497,373
(EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUES)		
<b>REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	(57,633)	907

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	\$	\$
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of expenses over revenues for the year	(52,633)	907
Items not affecting cash-		
Amortization of property and equipment	2,240	2,407
Change in non-cash working capital items -		
Decrease (Increase) in Grants and GST receivable	(49,559)	121,317
Increase (Decrease) in deferred contributions	(32,208)	42,855
(Decrease) Increase in unexpended grants	4,495	(296,123)
Decrease (Increase) in prepaid expenses	-	6,000
(Decrease) Increase in accounts payable	(9,277)	(39,882)
	(136,942)	(162,519)
<b>FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Investment in property and equipment	(1,092)	-
Transfer from internally restricted	(5,000)	-
	(6,092)	-
<b>(DECREASE) IN CASH</b>	(143,034)	(162,519)
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year</b>	865,191	1,027,710
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year</b>	722,157	865,191
Cash is comprised of:		
Cash and cash equivalents	522,157	365,191
Guaranteed investment certificate	200,000	500,000
	722,157	865,191

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) was incorporated under the Societies Act of the Province of Alberta on April 11, 1983. The Council is a registered charity and is exempt from income tax under the provisions of paragraph 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act. The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters works to

- develop a coordinated, collaborative response to family violence;
- coordinate funding and improve services in order to better meet the needs of abused women, their children and abused seniors;
- educate the public and professionals about prevention of, and responses to, spousal and senior abuse, and
- initiate, conduct and/or participate in research relating to the causes, impacts, prevention of family violence, and elimination of violence against women, children and seniors.

**2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

(A) Cash and cash equivalents

The organization's policy is to present bank balances and term deposits with a maturity period of three months or less from the date of acquisition under cash and cash equivalents.

Cash and cash equivalents is comprised of the following:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Cash	\$ 216,748	\$ 19,539
Cash – casino account	40,456	82,285
Savings account	<u>264,952</u>	<u>263,367</u>
	<u>\$ 522,156</u>	<u>\$ 365,191</u>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

2. **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

(B) Revenue Recognition –

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collections are reasonably assured.

(C) Equipment

Equipment is carried at cost less accumulated amortization. The Council records amortization over the estimated useful lives of the equipment using the straight-line method at the following annual rates:

Office	20%
Computer	33 1/3%

(D) Measurement Uncertainty –

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organization management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known.



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

2. **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

(E) Financial instruments

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. The organization subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in the statement of operations.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, accounts receivable, grants receivable and investments in government bonds.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include trade accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

3. **UNEXPENDED GRANTS**

Unexpended grants represent funds whose resources are to be used for an identified purpose as specified by the agency providing the funds. Management keeps internal records reporting results on project by project basis. The balance of the unexpended funds is comprised of the following:

A. Taking a Stand – Alberta Justice

During the year, the Council received \$150,000 from Alberta Justice to facilitate the development and implementation of a strategy to engage men and boys across the province in the prevention of domestic violence. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$0. During the year, \$150,000 was expended leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2014 of \$0.

B. ACWS Second Stage Shelter Project

During the year, the Council received \$25,000 for Rebuilding Lives Program ACWS Second Stage Shelter Project. \$11,003 was expended leaving a balance of \$13,997.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

**3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)**

**C. Women's Shelter Leadership Bursary**

In 2007 – 2008, ACWS received a grant of \$400,000 from Alberta Children's Services to assist senior women shelter staff to enhance their organization leadership capacity. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$128,560. During the year, \$36,649 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at year end of \$91,911. Administrative expenses for the program have not yet been deducted.

**D. Workplace Violence – HSAA**

In a prior year, the Council entered into a five year funding agreement calling for \$50,000 annual funding with the Health Sciences Association of Alberta to develop a program to address workplace violence. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$1,427. During the year, the Council received \$10,000 and expended \$9,364 on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2014 of \$ 2,063.

**E. Family Business Connect**

The Family-Business Connect is part of a violence reduction plan announced by Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel and Police Chief Rod Knecht. It is designed to build connections between major businesses and the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters to raise awareness of domestic violence and its impact upon the workplace, the family and the community. The unexpended balance at the beginning of the year was \$180,020. During the year, the Council received \$140,000 from various businesses and \$56,105 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2014 of \$263,915.

**F. Information Exchange**

In prior year the Council received \$5,000 for information exchange from The Calgary Foundation to develop a website that could share knowledge between members, engage the public and strengthen our ability to connect with victims and professionals in the domestic violence industry. The unexpended balance of prior year was \$5,000. During the year, the Council expended \$ 0 on the project, leaving an unexpended balance of \$5,000 at March 31, 2014.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

**3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)**

G. IODE – Training Fund

In a prior year, the Council received from IODE \$31,346 to help shelter workers to expand their knowledge on family violence and children exposed to domestic violence through the Crisis workers certificate program offered by Portage College. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$17,646. During the year, \$9,100 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$8,546 at March 31, 2014.

H. Walking The Path Together – NCPC

During the year, the Council received \$ 498,865 from the National Crime Prevention Centre to foster crime prevention in Aboriginal communities by addressing early risk factors in vulnerable families and children at risk. During the year, \$498,865 was expended on the project leaving a \$0 balance at March 31, 2014.

I. Walking The Path Together - SCIF

In the prior years, the Council received \$994,551 from the Safe Communities Initiative Fund to mitigate the cycle of violence for Aboriginal children in the five Alberta on reserve shelters. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$45,153. During the year, \$45,153 was expended on the project leaving a \$0 balance at March 31, 2014.

J. Child Care

In the prior years, the Council received \$155,000 to support building provincial capacity for shelter staff to meet the needs of families and children who have experienced family violence. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$20,503. During the year, the Council \$8,370 expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$12,133 at March 31, 2014.

K. National Crime Prevention Week Fund

During the year, the Council received \$4,320 grant for the project “Taking Action in Everyday Moments Can Empower Victims of Abuse”. This fund was not expended during the year leaving an unexpended balance of \$4,320 at March 31, 2014.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

**3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)**

L. Stollery

In a prior year, the Council received \$50,000 to ensure that young children in Edmonton and area shelters receive an enhanced level of support after exposure to domestic violence. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$12,090 and \$12,090 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$0 at March 31, 2014.

M. National Victim Crime Week

In a prior year, the Council received \$10,000 to provide Danger Assessment training for member shelters to support victims of domestic violence understand their levels of danger. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$1,694. \$1,694 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$0 at March 31, 2014.

N. UN Women – Canadian Network

In a prior year, the Council received \$53,603 to develop a knowledge module on “Shelters and Safe Spaces for Women and Girls at Risk of or Survivors of Violence”. The unexpended balance at the beginning of the year was \$5,247. During the year, \$2,092 was expended on the project leaving a balance of \$3,155 which was returned to the Canadian Network of Women leaving a balance of \$0 at March 31, 2014.

O. Working Together-Engaging Men and boys in Ending Violence

During the year, the Council received a grant of \$100,000 to deliver innovative approaches to engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls. During the year, \$84,157 was expended leaving a balance of \$15,843 at March 31, 2014.

P. Devon Workplace Learning

During the year, the Council received \$5,000 Investing in People grant for the development of people to create healthy and respectful workplaces. The Council expended \$893 leaving a balance of \$4,107 at March 31, 2014.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

**4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

	<b>2014</b>		<b>2013</b>	
	Cost \$	Accumulated Amortization \$	Net Book Value \$	Net Book Value \$
Office equipment	\$48,558	\$41,991	\$ 6,567	\$ 8,209
Computer equipment	18,683	17,469	1,214	720
	<u>\$67,241</u>	<u>\$59,460</u>	<u>\$7,781</u>	<u>\$ 8,929</u>

**5. INTERNAL RESTRICTIONS**

The Board of Directors of the Council has allocated funds for specifically identified purposes. The Council may not use these internally restricted funds for any other purpose without the approval of the Board of Directors.

	<b>2014</b> \$	<b>2013</b> \$
(a) Stabilization reserve The Council has established a stabilization reserve to hold three months of operating expenses.	62,000	62,000
(b) Equipment replacement reserve The Council has established an equipment replacement reserve in order to replace office equipment as it becomes necessary.	-	5,000
(c) World Conference Legacy fund The Council has established a reserve to be used for dissemination and follow up activities related to the first World Conference on Women's Shelters.	49,876	49,876
	<u>111,876</u>	<u>116,876</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

**6. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

Funds gained from a Casino event are placed in a separate bank account. These funds, which total \$40,4575 at year end, are restricted in that they may be used for expenses related to operating the charitable gaming event as well as for the purposes stated in the charity's gaming license application. The past license indicated that the funds would be used for occupational costs as well as costs associated with the creation and distribution of the agency's newsletter and development of the organization's website.

**7. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Council is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis presents the Council's exposures to significant risk at the reporting date, i.e. March 31, 2014.

Liquidity risk

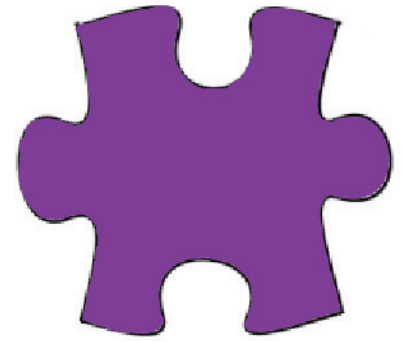
Liquidity risk is the risk that the organization will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. This risk is reduced because of considerable sums invested in guaranteed investment certificates.

**8. COMMITMENT**

The Council rents premises under an operating lease effective March 1, 2012, expiring February 28, 2017. The annual base rent in years 1 – 3 is \$15,421 and in years 4 -5 is \$17,624.

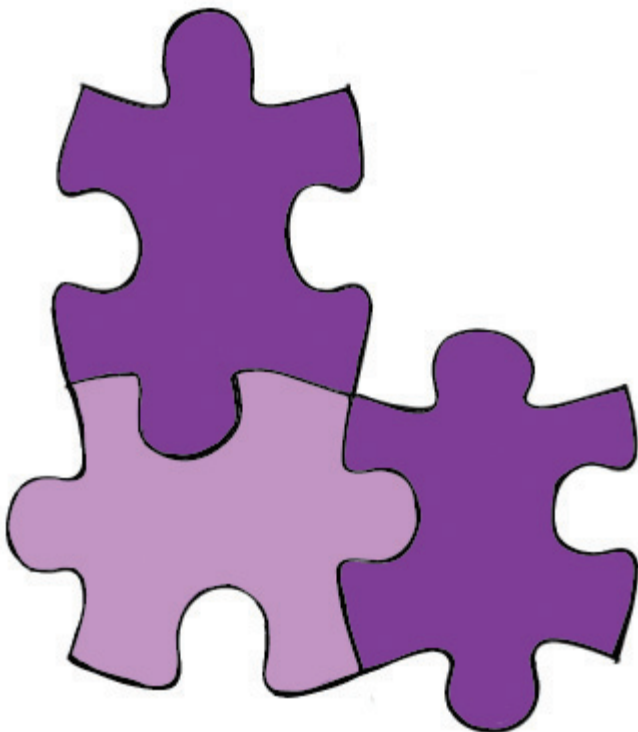
**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**GRANT SCHEDULE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Walking The Path Together – NCPC	498,865	486,354
Operation/Council	159,913	194,970
Taking a Stand	150,000	96,243
Engaging Men	84,159	-
Family Business Connect	56,105	55,391
Walking The Path Together-SCIF	45,153	310,081
Bursary Program-Children's Services(recovery)	36,649	68,787
Stollery	12,090	20,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage Shelters-CWF	11,003	-
Workplace Violence - HSAA	9,364	81,874
IODE – Crisis Training	9,100	13,500
Child Care	8,370	36,861
UN - Women-Canadian Network	2,092	11,301
National Victim Crime Week	1,695	8,306
Workplace Learning-Devon	890	-
CWF-Canadian Network	-	4,070
Making Amends	-	34,743
National Crime Prevention Week	-	10,000
CNWTBS Forum	-	9,959
CEFV	-	7,735
CWF – Legislation Funds	-	6,851
United to End Violence	-	367,075
	1,085,448	1,824,101

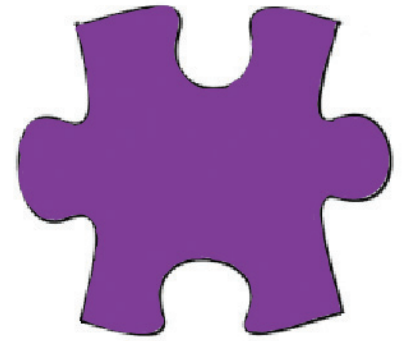


**“Financial support for women and children leaving domestic violence has not kept up with costs for housing, food, education, transportation.”**

SHELTER WORKER, CALGARY, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT

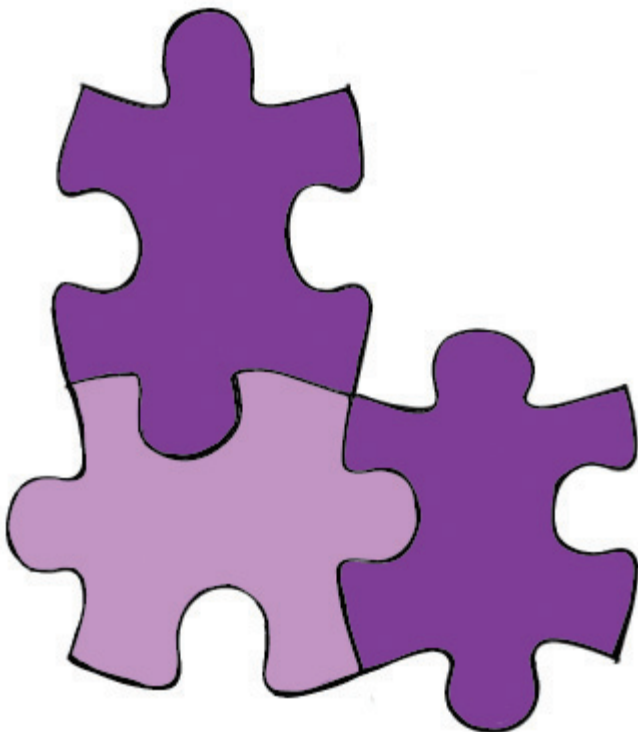


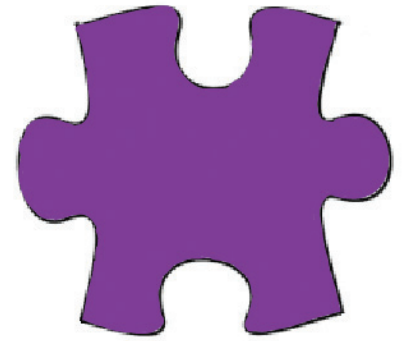




**“Because of the help that I received I feel strong and more confident to move forward on my own. I am leaving the shelter feeling more confident and safer. I have learned a lot at the shelter about abuse that I did not know before. I also now know my legal options, and about resources in the community that can help me.”**

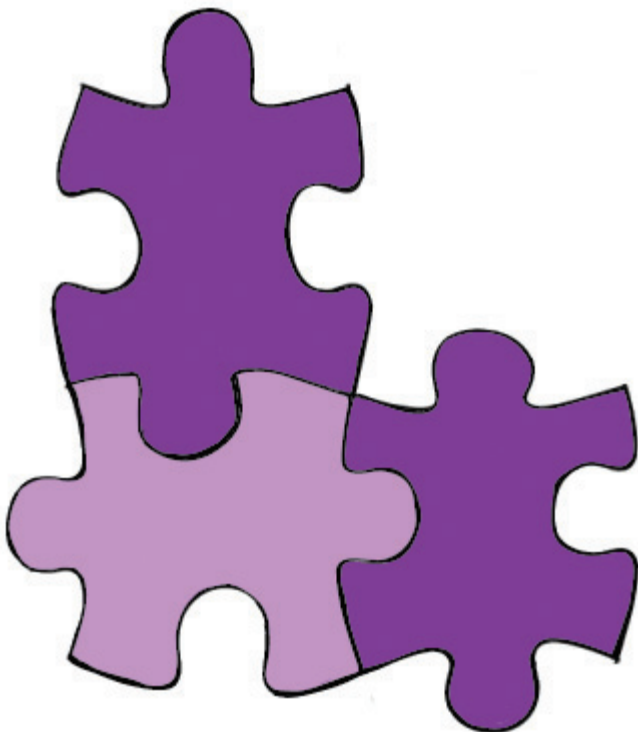
WOMAN IN SHELTER, CALGARY, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT

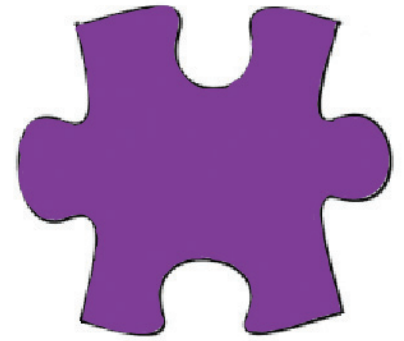




**“I am grateful to be here. I am grateful for being safe, for my Mom and for all the staff.”**

**CHILD IN SHELTER, HIGH RIVER, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT**





**“I have the courage to live again.  
Hope is still alive.”**

WOMAN IN SHELTER, HIGH RIVER, ALBERTA 2013 DATA COUNT

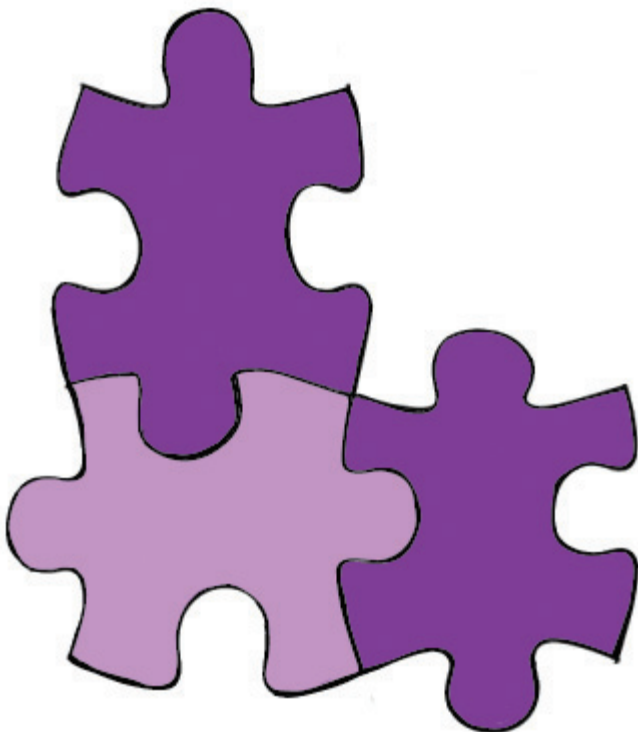






Photo credit: "IMG\_4017GM," Ginger MacPhee