



**Alberta Council of Women's Shelters'
Annual Report 2015-16**



ACWS
Alberta Council of
Women's Shelters



Table of Contents

About ACWS

ACWS Vision	3
ACWS Mission	3
ACWS Board (2015-2016)	3
ACWS Staff	3

Valued Supporters	4
-------------------------	---

Leadership Messages

ACWS Board President – Brenda Brochu	5
ACWS Executive Director – Jan Reimer	6

ACWS Year-in-Review	8
---------------------------	---

Board Committee Reports

Board Governance Report – Brenda Rebman	10
Ad Hoc Fund Development Committee Annual Report - Dennis Callihoo	12
Ad Hoc Aboriginal Advisory Committee Annual Report - Dennis Callihoo	13

Audited Financial Statements	16
------------------------------------	----

Auditor's Report	
Statement of Financial Position	
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	
Statement of Operations	
Statement of Cash Flow	
Notes to the Financial Statements	
Grant Schedule	

About ACWS

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 (2015-16)

Brenda Brochu, *President*

Brenda Rebman, *Vice President*

Pamela Wicks, *Secretary*

Patricia Garrett, *Treasurer*

Gaye Warthe

Dennis Callihoo

Amanda C. Labonte

Sherrie Botten

Michele Taylor

Doris Sweetgrass

Brian Simpson

Kelly-Ann Fenney

Lewis Cardinal (partial term)

ACWS Staff (2015-16)

Jan Reimer, *Executive Director*

Carolyn Goad, *Director of Member Programs and Services*

Ken Seto, *Finance and Information Management Administrator*

Christie Lavan, *Leading Change Program Developer*

Cat VanWielingen, *Data and Project Advisor*

Joy Medori, *Special Projects and Research Advisor*

Amy Mercure, *Evaluation & Research Specialist*

Jennifer Ness, *Office Administrator*

Nicol Sinclair, *Office Assistant*

Valued Major Supporters

The work we do is made possible by the following organizations and individuals:

Alberta Centre For Child Family Community Research
Aquila Productions
AUPE Local 12
Bonton Bakery
Butler Family Foundation
C. Allen
Calgary Foundation
CN
Der Family Benevolent Association
Devon Canada
Donna Hammerlindl
Dutch Canadian Club
Edmonton Community Foundation
Edmonton Police Foundation
Edmonton Police Services
Glenna Russell
Gordon And Jane White
Government of Alberta - Human Services
Government of Alberta - Justice and Solicitor General
Government of Canada - Department of Justice
Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire Alberta Chapter
Jeanette Budzinski
Kinsmen Care Foundation
Patrick Mcdonald
Rob Goguen
Robert Rosen
Ross McBain
Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees' Charitable Donations Fund
Sharon Barbour
Shoppers Drug Mart
Status Of Women Canada
Tenaquip Foundation
Union 52 Benevolent Society
United Nurses of Alberta
United Way Of Alberta Capital Region
United Way Of Calgary
Val Teskey

Leadership Messages

ACWS President's Report 2015-16 — Brenda Brochu

The past year was an eventful one, which saw several major successes for ACWS. First, off-reserve second-stage shelters received sustainable, ongoing operating funds from the provincial government for the first time! This was the result of persistent efforts by ACWS and its members over many years. I would like to especially thank the second-stage shelter directors for all the work they did to help bring this about.

With the change in government in Edmonton also came an increase in operating funds for off-reserve shelters and an increase in the per-diem grant for on-reserve shelters when they take in clients who have been living off reserve.

Later in the year, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters received a large one-time provincial government grant to be spent over three years on data support, shelter training, domestic violence in the workplace, and engaging men and boys. This, combined with an unexpected donation of \$90,000 from the casino of another charity, has pulled us out of the precarious financial situation we were in a year ago.

On August 28, the board participated in a strategic planning retreat facilitated by Kim Ghostkeeper. This led to changes to our strategic plan which focus on building strong relationships among on-reserve and off-reserve shelters and on building strong relationships between shelters and ACWS.

During the federal election campaign in the fall, ACWS circulated some questions and a background paper which led to the adoption of some of our recommendations by the Liberal Party and the NDP.

On January 21, I attended a special meeting involving representatives of all five on-reserve shelters plus members of the Board's Ad Hoc Aboriginal Advisory Committee and a representative of the Alberta Native Friendship Centres. The meeting was facilitated by Kim Ghostkeeper and aimed at seeking wisdom on how to improve relationships within ACWS and better serve the indigenous women and children who come to shelters. It included a discussion on how to develop a statement of principles and values regarding indigenous people based on input from indigenous people themselves. Work is currently underway on this.

I am very pleased that Doris Sweetgrass from the Kainai Women' Wellness Lodge was able to attend the World Conference of Women's Shelters in the Hague, Netherlands, as the ACWS Board representative, along with many staff and board members from shelters from across Alberta. There was also strong representation from both the on-reserve and off-reserve shelters at the recent professional development workshop on effective indigenous relationships in Banff this spring.

We have been trying to arrange meetings with representatives of the new government in Ottawa since last October's federal election, and this came to fruition on May 31 and June 1, when we met with Indigenous Affairs Minister Bennett, Status of Women Minister Hajdu and Infrastructure Minister Sohi in Ottawa. I was part of an ACWS delegation that included strong indigenous representation, since funding for the on-reserve shelters was a major issue. We were also able to address issues such as a national action plan to end violence against women and social housing initiatives tailored to the needs of women fleeing abuse. The trip included meetings with opposition politicians as well as government leaders.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing board members Pat Garrett, Amanda Labonte and Lewis Cardinal for their dedicated service. I would also like to thank Jan Reimer and all the ACWS staff for your tireless efforts on our behalf.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Brochu

ACWS Executive Director — Jan Reimer

Strengthening connections

We are committed to building a world where violence no longer exists and our work reflects our commitment to finding innovative approaches to end domestic violence. Our strength is rooted in our network of 41 members who connect us to the field and provide vital input. Together we stand strong, our voices amplified through the Canadian and Global networks we helped to build.

In Alberta, amidst the noise of a very dramatic economic downturn— we hear the faint sound of someone knocking on a door. Listen closely. As we move closer to that sound, we notice that the knocking is quite confident and sure and not faint at all: it's opportunity.

For in spite of this economic crisis, provincially funded women's and seniors' shelters have never been this well-supported, with a new government honoring an election promise which saw a significant funding boost! While we acknowledge that families, friends and donors face new struggles in this economic climate, it is also important for us to take a moment and celebrate the gains that have been made – given how long our sector has struggled.

The increase for provincially-funded shelters announced in September of 2015 is taking shape in many forms, with shelters being afforded flexibility in allocating new dollars related to their community's needs. And at long last, after more than thirty years of pilots, second-stage shelters are actually being funded. They are finally able to devote more resources to service delivery, programming and planning rather than the constant worry of making payroll and keeping the lights on.

ACWS has also been fortunate to receive grants from applications that had been collecting dust in in-boxes over the past few years. This new ACWS funding is one-time only, and we are investing in expanding our capacity to serve members better on many fronts: collaborative training opportunities on wise practices with associated intervention tools, infusing support of data collection with additional resources to better learn from the numbers and supporting shelter prevention and community development efforts.

Through all this, we are focused on answering the following questions:

- How can we best use the power of our collective voice to support the leadership of our long-starved on-reserve shelter members in their quest for equitable funding from the new federal government?
- How do we use the new resources to build sustainability for all members and for ACWS, beyond these next few years.
- How to best seize the opportunity that potential federal and provincial capital funding offers to envision shelters of the future?
- How do we support and equip community understanding of the gendered nature of violence against women - inspiring others to pass on this knowledge in an informed way to shift attitudes and behaviours, creating long-lasting social change?
- How to leverage what is working well at the grass roots level to benefit survivors or domestic violence?

- How can we better invite and integrate survivors' voices into our collaborative work and advocacy for system change at the provincial level and beyond?

On-reserve shelters in Alberta have not seen a funding increase in over 7 years. These federally-funded shelters have cut programming down to bare bones and continue to struggle to keep the lights on. The five ACWS members operating on-reserve are:

Eagle's Nest Stoney Family Shelter in Morley (Emergency)

Sucker Creek Women's Emergency Shelter in Enilda (Emergency & Second-Stage)

Ermineskin Women's Shelter in Maskwacis (Emergency)

Neepinise Family Healing Centre, Bigstone Cree Nation in Wabasca (Emergency & Second-Stage)

Kainai Women's Wellness Lodge in Standoff (Emergency)

With the support of the Government of Alberta through a Family and Community Safety grant, ACWS has embarked on a consultative journey with all members about how ACWS can better inspire and influence culturally informed services for Indigenous women and children accessing women's shelter services in Alberta. Our journey began with first consulting First Nations members in the development of a Statement of Principles, Values, and Commitment to Actions for Indigenous Women, Girls, and Their Families. We also look forward to ways in which we can respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action.

It has been a privilege to work with provincially funded members over the last year supporting their complex journeys in implementing the new government funding and ensuring that collectively we have a process in place to demonstrate impact.

How inspiring it was to attend the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters last November in The Hague and witness the global growth of our collective work. The provincial funding increase to emergency shelters and the first-ever core funding commitment to second-stage shelters are great examples of what happens when we work together. Our network is stronger than ever. Let's use it to follow the lead of our First Nation's sisters in advocating for their sustainable funding.

As you will see in the annual report, it has indeed been a very busy year. Training for members and community; projects to identify wise practices to scale up on a province-wide basis, work with government on policies and practice; and preparing for consultations in the upcoming year at the federal and provincial level.

Listen closely. We're so used to making lemonade from lemons, the sound of opportunity knocking is a bit foreign. The survivors of abuse we serve (women, children and seniors) will benefit as we work together to leverage these opportunities.

Between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016, ACWS shelters accommodated a total of 5,418 women and 5,149 children. Of those women, 4,301 were seeking safety from abuse.

ACWS 2015-16 Year in Review

Supported shelter reporting requirements

- 45 one-on-one online training sessions
- Hosted an annual Outcome Tracker (OT) Administrators training over GotoWebinar
- Produced an Outcome Tracker training video on advanced training
- Worked with Second-stage members to plan for documentation, evaluation and reporting of their data
- Addressed 191 support requests with Vista Share & OT Administrators
- Collaborated with shelter directors on clarifying shelter 'turnaway processes in response to concerns from the province
- Confirmed revisions to "occupancy formula"

Additional ACWS member training

- Planned for the Effective Indigenous Relationships workshop in Banff (May 2016)
- Danger Assessment training and certifications along with DVSA
- Lunch n learn on Occupational Health and Safety and Working Alone Legislation
- ACWS provided a Bursary for three members to attend the Third World Conference of Women's Shelters

Ensuring a shelter voice in policy development

- ACWS is represented on the Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness to look at better ways to strengthen access to specialized housing and supports
- We participated on the Workforce Alliance to look at workforce education, attraction, recruitment, development and training of staff. This year we produced reports on the ACYS Women's Shelter Leadership Bursary and Staff Turnover Rates. In conjunction with other provincial associations, we began our 2016 Workforce Survey (with results coming soon) and supported the Healthy Workforces Project.
- A report, Infrastructure Supporting Alberta's Women, Children and Seniors who are Seeking Violence Free lives, outlining the current state of the buildings of 41 member shelter organizations was presented to Human Services and Alberta Seniors and Housing.
- Report prepared on the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool for Families (F-SPDAT) work with Homeward Trust, HS and member shelters
- Responded to the province's request for input on the impact of minimum wage on shelter workers
- Prepared a briefing document on key issues regarding fiscal policies for the Provincial Treasurer
- Letter submitted as part of the provincial review on Mental Health & Addictions
- Provided input from Senior's shelters to inform the development of the Elder Abuse Policing Guidelines
- Hosted discussion between shelter directors and new Status of Women minister

Learning Collaboratives

- Our Second-stage Project, funded by both the Calgary Foundation and the Alberta Centre for Child, Family & Community Research is developing a second-stage funding and practice model with members interested in second stage shelter programming including the development of an Acuity Scale
- Safety from Domestic Violence, Using Evidence Based Practices to Keep Women Safe draws upon shelter, policing, justice, victims services and legal expertise to inventory, amplify and test programming to increase women's safety
- Building Shelter Capacity to work with Aboriginal Communities is supported by ACWS' five on-reserve shelters working to develop a statement of principles and values, guiding an action plan for ACWS.

National Connections

- ACWS continues to play a key role with the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses
- We were asked to participate on the National Guidance and Implementation Committee for the Development of Pan Canadian Guidance on Family Violence
- Federal Election Questions were developed and circulated to all political parties; with their responses posted on our website. These questions were also taken up by women's groups across the country.

- We are part of the of a Community of Practice on engaging men and boys, a White Ribbon project funded by Status of Women Canada

Funding crisis for On-reserve shelters in Alberta

- ACWS continues to raise the issue of the lack of funding for on-reserve shelters
- Policy statement on Administrative Reform Agreement is being developed recognizing the recent decision of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal
- Support provincial and federal policy to address the needs of Aboriginal women and children
- At our 2015 AGM, ACWS focused discussion on the needs of Aboriginal women. A play, “A Musta-Be: Maskihkiy Maskwa Iskew,” was presented to our members, followed the next day by a facilitated discussion about what we need to do to make a difference for aboriginal women accessing our services

Networking and information sharing

- AGM 2015
- Shelter Directors Meetings
- Listserv
- ACWS Member’s Only Website continues to be updated
- 3rd World Conference – ACWS hosted an Alberta shelters evening

Communications for Awareness

- Media Advisories and Releases
- ACWS website
- ACWS Facebook and Twitter content
- Breakfast with the Guys – Edmonton
- Global & Alberta Shelter Data Counts
- Two ACWS staff presentations at 3rd World Conference of Women’s Shelters
- Shelter Service Awards – Joie Dery Award & ACWS Volunteer Award
- Started recording interviews with Shelter Directors to lend context to funding increase
- Provincial election questions

Sustainability of ACWS Organization

- Communications to attract donors
- Data base set up as fund development tool
- Board Sustainability Committee formed
- Edmonton Domestic Violence Shelters Engage coalition
- Gifts of Hope event
- Edmonton Community Foundation grant for Leading Change development

Leading Change Project

- Released the 2nd Men’s Attitude Survey on Violence Against Women on International Women’s Day
- Conducted CFL Project presentations with the Edmonton Eskimos in May of 2015, and with the Calgary Stampeders throughout the year
- Trained 21 School Resource Officers with the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) in delivering Leading Change in Edmonton’s Junior High and High Schools.
- Embarked on research pilot with EPS, with funding from Edmonton Police Foundation
- Produced video in May describing CFL project & our work with model pilot community (Rocky Mountain House) that was shared at last year’s AGM
- Work supporting Leading Change Inspired Communities to roll out the curriculum
- One Train-the-facilitator training for the Domestic Violence and Your Workplace program
- Worked with Deloitte and Pembina Pipelines on DV and Your Workplace
- Assessing staffing needs to be able to impact change with the tools we’ve developed
- Supporting Breakfast events in other communities throughout Alberta – Drayton Valley, Grande Prairie, Leduc

Board Committee Reports

Board Governance Report - Brenda Rebman

Chair: Brenda Rebman

Members: Kelly-Ann Fenny, Pamela Wicks

For the second time, the ACWS Board used the free on-line board development assessment service, known as the Board Check-Up, and were able to measure progress. Results were reported and discussed during our 2015 summer strategic planning session. Overall, the evaluation found that

- The ACWS board is an effective board;
- Our scores relatively high and
- Our scores had improved from the previous assessment.

As a result of the evaluation the board oversaw a new reporting format to the board, which provides dashboards measuring progress on key success indicators in our ACWS Strategic Plan and (along with a recognition of the serious financial pressures we were facing), the board formed an ad hoc fund development committee. At the same meeting, the board reviewed and updated our Strategic Plan. The short form of our strategic plan is attached and was adjusted based on the input we received from members during the 2015 AGM session facilitated by Kim Ghostkeeper. A key focus in the upcoming year will be to review ACWS board policies to ensure they are inclusive. Bernice Sewell, from SAGE, presented to the board on Creating Inclusive Spaces project and the impact on their organization.

The committee also updated our policies and procedures on succession planning as well as our board matrix to determine priorities for 2016 board recruitment. We also continued our work on the Board's Annual Workplan, where we anticipate the plan will guide the detailed work required within each committee and the Board as a whole.

The committee also began a review of ACWS position statements. Our position statement on the Need for a Death Review Committee has been archived and removed from the website as the province has put one in place. Our next update will be on the Administrative Reform Agreement.

Membership and service fee philosophies were also discussed and staff will be circulating a discussion paper and survey to our members to seek their feedback.

Between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016, ACWS shelters received 52,562 Crisis Calls, that lasted an average of 16 minutes.

Board Strategic Goals	Outcome	Primary Responsibility
<p>ACWS, in collaboration with its members, provides leadership to enhance shelter-based actions to address domestic violence</p>	<p>Governments funds models for First Nations On Reserve shelters (emergency and second stage); provincially funded shelters; second stage; seniors’ shelters to meet the needs of women, children and seniors</p> <p>Shelter staff are supported in delivering quality client-centered services.</p> <p>Shelters and ACWS have an increased profile to bring awareness and understanding to the work they do in Alberta</p>	<p>Board with the support of the Executive Director</p> <p>Executive Director</p> <p>Executive Director</p> <p>Executive Director with the support of the Board</p>
<p>ACWS leverages relationships and enters into partnerships to mobilize support to end domestic violence.</p>	<p>Board members are effective ambassadors for ACWS’ vision.</p> <p>Members convey a common message within their communities.</p> <p>Increased public conversations about domestic violence and abuse</p>	<p>Board</p> <p>Executive Director</p> <p>Executive Director with the support of the Board</p>
<p>ACWS is well-resourced in order to provide quality services and effect change.</p>	<p>Aggregated shelter data is used to effect change.</p> <p>ACWS has increased diversified and sustainable resources for its operation.</p> <p>ACWS has a diversified staff that meets Members’ needs.</p>	<p>Executive Director</p> <p>Executive Director</p> <p>Executive Director with the support of the Board</p> <p>Executive Director with the support of the Board</p>
<p>ACWS facilitates connectedness and mutual support with and among Member Organizations.</p>	<p>On reserve and off reserve shelters have strong relationships with each other and ACWS.</p>	<p>Executive Director with the support of the Board</p>

2016 ACWS Ad Hoc Fund Development Committee Annual Report - Dennis Callihoo

Chair Dennis Callihoo,

Members: Pamela Wicks, Sherrie Botten, Michele Taylor

One of the Board's Strategic Goals is that ACWS is well-resourced in order to provide quality services and effect change. As reported at the 2015 AGM, ACWS faced significant financial challenges in the previous year. The Board created an Ad Hoc Fund Development Committee, charged with developing a plan for 2015-2016 and recommendations for the longer term.

Over the year, members of the committee met on three occasions and brought forward several recommendations, which the board approved for this fiscal year:

- Sharing e-mail solicitations with their personal contacts
- Approaching corporate contacts to (a) donate to ACWS, (b) engage in the DV and Your Workplace Program and (c) negotiate discounts for supplies and services required by members
- Encouraging donations for Aeroplan miles
- Recruiting volunteers for the ACWS casino held January 15 and 16th, 2016.

In this past year, we have seen an increase in donations to ACWS year, and 56,000 Aeroplan miles were donated to support both ACWS travel costs and transportation costs for women needing to leave for their personal safety. It is our hope that we can build this pool up significantly in order to provide supports for women when shelters call us.

The Committee has also prepared recommendations for the board to consider for the upcoming year.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their work and dedication in addressing the sustainability of ACWS.

Respectfully submitted

Dennis Callihoo

More than 4,000 client files were started for women and children in Alberta that accessed outreach services through ACWS member shelters, in the last year.

Last year's increase in provincial funding will fund 40 new shelter staff across the province, providing child trauma informed services for children and youth who have experienced family violence.

2016 ACWS Ad Hoc Aboriginal Advisory Committee Annual Report - Dennis Callihoo

Members: Dennis Callihoo
Doris Sweetgrass
Sherrie Botten
Amanda Labonté

Background

The Board's Ad Hoc Aboriginal Advisory Committee was formed to advise on the development of a statement of ACWS principles and values through a consultative process that would provide guidance and direction to ACWS (and potentially to ACWS members) on strategies and actions to meet the needs of Aboriginal women and children. The statement would be part of ACWS' core principles and govern what ACWS does in relation to aboriginal people. The goal is to make sure that whatever decisions are made, are always viewed through an Aboriginal lens, to ensure there is inclusion, and respect.

Based on the work plan developed, ACWS submitted a three year project proposal to Alberta Human Services under the Community Safety Grant. Political changes in 2014 and 2015 meant that the grant approval process was stymied and it was not until December, 2015 that ACWS signed a grant agreement with the province for a scaled down one year project. It was subsequently announced that we received funding for a second year.

Discussion

A joint meeting with the Board's Aboriginal Advisory Committee and project stakeholders was called on January 21, 2016, facilitated by Kim Ghostkeeper. Project stakeholders included all First Nation shelter directors, the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association and Pincher Creek Women's Shelter. The meeting was called to develop steps to move the project forward in light of the significant changes that had occurred and to affirm support of the project by those in attendance.

Some of the changes since the application was submitted included staffing changes: three new Executive Directors (Sucker Creek, Bigstone and Morley), the closure of Paspew House (a project stakeholder); the Truth and Reconciliation process and report; and a change in approach from the both the federal and provincial governments. The Premier has asked for a report regarding how the province can live up to the requirements of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the federal government has committed to implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and holding an inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women. We wanted to examine current opportunities and consider our position as an influencing agency both to our members and society.

Based on the discussion, the following is now underway:

Through a phased and intensive consultation process, ACWS working with the Executive Directors from the First Nations Shelters will explicitly define what they believe and promote with respect to violence against Aboriginal women. As part of this process

- ACWS will gather pertinent information around Aboriginal needs. This will include a literature review including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations
- With First Nations members, ACWS will lay the foundation of the consultation process and co - create a statement of principles and values in relation to services for Aboriginal peoples. A draft statement

and action plan will be prepared and circulated to both members of the stakeholder group and the board committee. On-reserve shelter directors will request advice from their elders, followed by a community consultation. As part of this process, ACWS will incorporate a training component to affirm First Nation members' knowledge and support them in addressing the personal impacts of intergenerational trauma and colonization in their communities.

- The statement developed will ultimately become a part of ACWS's core principals, and govern what ACWS does in relation to Aboriginal people.
- It is anticipated that the statement of values and principles, along with an action plan and related recommendations regarding board policy will be presented to the board in early 2017.

During the second year First Nations Shelter Directors will facilitate training to our members and community consultations on the principles and action plan. Any recommended changes and policy directions based on this consultation will be presented to the board in late 2017 early 2018.

Reporting Alberta shelters in 2015-16 confirmed 54.9% of women admitted to shelters were Aboriginal, despite Aboriginal making up approximately 5.9% of female Albertans.

Of the women working with a shelter who completed the Danger Assessment in 2015-16, those who identify as Aboriginal have a higher score that their individual incidences of abuse could result in femicide at 72.06%, compared to "all women" in shelter, whose score was 66.96%.



If you or anyone you know needs help, call 1-866-331-3933 to be connected to a shelter near you



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF
WOMEN'S SHELTERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016**

	Page
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 – 15
Grant Schedule	16

Skolney & Company

Chartered Accountants

Glenn W. Skolney, B.Comm., C.A. (ext. 301)
Judy Vansevenandt, B.Comm., C.A. (ext. 304)
Frank Onyschuk, B.Comm. (ext. 303)
Emmet Butland, C.A. (ext. 307)
Wendy Tugwood, C.A., CPA (IN) (ext. 317)
Norma Rosette, CGA (ext. 315)

Suite 1420, Weber Centre
5555 Calgary Trail South
Edmonton, Alta T6H 5P9
Telephone (780) 469-1381
Fax (780) 469-5822
Email skolney@telusplanet.net

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, 2016 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.

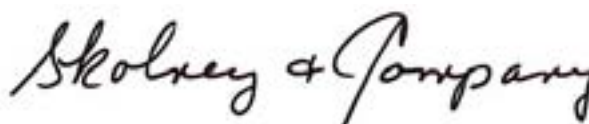
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

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, 2016 and March 31, 2015, and net assets for both the March 31, 2016 and 2015 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2016 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, 2016, 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.



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Edmonton, Alberta
June 10, 2016

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MARCH 31, 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 2 and 6)	1,264,872	717,000
Grant receivable	-	4,195
Prepaid	-	1,949
GST receivable	7,219	11,026
Guaranteed investment certificates	2,400,000	-
	3,672,091	734,170
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Notes 2 and 4)	4,743	6,063
	3,676,834	740,233
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	29,586	29,898
Unexpended grants (Note 3)	1,573,461	311,989
Deferred revenue	1,622,643	-
Deferred contributions related to operations	39,791	31,163
	3,265,481	373,050
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	247,744	249,244
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS (Note 5)	158,866	111,876
INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT	4,743	6,063
	411,353	367,183
	3,676,834	740,233

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Director

Director

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

	2016			2015	
	Investment in Property and Equipment \$	Internally Restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	Total \$	Total \$
BALANCE, beginning of year	6,063	111,876	249,244	367,183	365,457
Transfer to reserve, beginning of year		1,500	(1,500)	-	-
Excess of (expenses over revenues) revenue over expenses	(1,320)	(20,582)	66,072	44,170	1,726
Transfer to reserve, end of year	-	66,072	(66,072)	-	-
<hr/>					
BALANCE, end of year	4,743	158,866	247,744	411,353	367,183

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
REVENUES		
Grants (Schedule 1)	671,308	542,214
Government of Alberta	-	250,000
Donations	206,324	95,582
Fundraising	71,403	90,115
Casino revenue	-	80,772
Membership fees	58,600	56,450
Interest and other income	14,583	16,561
Registration and workshop fees	12,035	27,127
Gain on sale of investments	272	-
	1,034,525	1,158,821
EXPENDITURES		
Wages and employee benefits	571,414	521,750
Program expenses	283,210	506,515
Occupancy costs	42,959	39,511
Recruitment and training	30,533	42,154
Annual General Meeting	12,863	13,801
Office and miscellaneous	12,638	17,180
Telephone	6,712	7,330
Professional fees	4,541	4,325
Insurance	2,164	2,131
Repairs and maintenance	1,183	374
Casino expense	236	306
Amortization	1,320	1,718
	969,773	1,157,095
REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	64,752	1,726

Revenues from Government of Alberta in 2015 has been reclassified to Grants (Schedule 1) in 2016

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of expenses over revenues for the year	64,752	1,726
Items not affecting cash-		
Amortization of property and equipment	1,320	1,718
Change in non-cash working capital items -		
Decrease (Increase) in Grants and GST receivable	8,002	106,821
Increase (Decrease) in deferred contributions	8,628	16,297
(Decrease) Increase in unexpended grants	1,261,472	(113,192)
Increase in deferred revenue	1,622,643	-
(Increase) Decrease in prepaid expenses	1,949	(949)
(Decrease) Increase in accounts payable	(312)	(17,578)
	2,968,454	(5,157)
FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
<u>Transfer from internally restricted</u>	(20,582)	-
	(20,582)	-
(DECREASE) IN CASH	2,947,872	(5,157)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	717,000	722,157
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	3,664,872	717,000
Cash is comprised of:		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,264,872	717,000
Guaranteed investment certificate	2,400,000	-
	3,664,872	717,000

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016**

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 are comprised of the following:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Cash - Bank	\$ 1,230,651	\$ 646,109
Cash – casino account	27,488	52,174
Savings account	<u>6,733</u>	<u>18,717</u>
	<u>\$ 1,264,872</u>	<u>\$ 717,000</u>

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

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 declining balance 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, 2016

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. 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 leadership skills. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$54,411. During the year, \$9,719 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2016 of \$44,692.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016**

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

B. Workplace Violence

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 \$1,179. During the year, the Council expended \$1,179 on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2016 of \$ 0.

C. Family Business Connect

The Family Business Connect program 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 \$211,800. During the year, the Council received \$500 from Executive Women International Calgary and \$17,136 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2016 of \$195,164.

D. 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 \$3,346. This amount was expended during the year leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2016 of \$0.

E. Alberta CFL Project – Kinsmen Club of Stampede City

During the year, the Council received \$25,000 from Kinsmen Care Foundation to support the Leading Change Alberta CFL Project, delivered in partnership with the Calgary Stampede. The project facilitates conversations with youth around respectful relationships motivating teens to “lead from where they stand”. \$11,320 was expended during the year, leaving an unexpended balance of \$13,680 at March 31, 2016.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

F. 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 \$9,044. During the year, the Council expended \$1,463 on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2016 of \$7,581.

G. National Victims Crime Week

In the prior year, the Council received \$5,300 from the Government of Canada for the project entitled "Compassionate Practice" to provide Danger Assessment training for member shelters. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$5,050. During the year, the council received \$756 from the Government of Canada and expended \$5,806, leaving an unexpended balance of \$0 at March 31, 2016.

H. Alberta CFL Project – Government of Alberta

During the prior year, the Council received \$200,000 from the Government of Alberta to work with two Alberta CFL teams to provide awareness of and change the culture of domestic abuse. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$16,422. During the year, \$12,987 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2016 of \$3,435.

I. Working Together-Engaging Men and Boys in Ending Violence

In a prior year, the Council received a grant of \$100,000 from Status of Women Canada to deliver innovative approaches to engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls. The unexpended balance at the beginning of the year was \$6,683. During the year, the Council received \$10,000 and expended \$16,683, leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2016 of \$0.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

J. Workplace Learning

In a prior year, the Council received \$5,000 from Devon Canada for an Investing in People grant for the development of people to create healthy and respectful workplaces. The unexpended balance at the beginning of the year was \$4,054. During the year the Council received \$5,000 and expended \$9,054, leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2016 of \$0.

K. Safety From Domestic Violence – Status of Women

During year, the Council received \$135,000 from Status of Women Canada for this project intended to increase the safety and reduce the vulnerability of low-income and Aboriginal women leaving domestic violence situations in Alberta. \$48,600 was expended, leaving an unexpended balance of \$86,400 as at March 31, 2016.

L. Leading Change: Inspired Communities

During the year, the Council received \$10,000 from the United Way of Alberta Capital Region and the Union 52 Benevolent Society in support of increasing awareness and prevention of gender-based violence in the region. The Council expended \$260 during the year, leaving an unexpended balance of \$ 9,740 as at March 31, 2016.

M. School Resource Officers Training Initiative

During the year, the Council received \$23,254 from Edmonton Police Services to train Edmonton School Resource Officers on the ACWS Leading Change program. During the year \$23,254 was expended leaving a balance of \$0 as at March 31, 2016.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

N. SRO – Leading Change Project Evaluation

During the year, the Council received \$26,000 from the Edmonton Police Foundation to support the evaluation of the School Resource Officers Leading Change Initiative. During the year, \$1,974 was expended leaving a balance of \$24,026 as at March 31, 2016.

O. Safety From Domestic Violence – Government of Alberta

During the year, the Council received \$130,000 from the Government of Alberta for the prevention of domestic violence against women using evidence based practices to keep women safe. During the year, \$41,267 was expended leaving a balance of \$88,733 as at March 31, 2016.

P. Building Informed Service Delivery in Second Stage Shelters: Phase II

During the year, the Council received \$43,500 from the Calgary Foundation and Alberta Centre for Child Family Community Research to help meet the needs of building informed service delivery in Second Stage Shelters. During the year, the Council expended \$24,843 leaving a balance of \$ 18,657 as at March 31, 2016.

Q. Building Shelter Capacity to Work With Aboriginal Communities

During the year, the Minister of Human Services and the Council entered into a Family and Community Safety Program Grant Funding Agreement for two years. The Council is to develop a plan to end violence against Aboriginal women. The Council received \$333,334 and expended \$23,185, leaving an unexpended balance of \$310,149 as at March 31, 2016.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

R. Leading Change: Engaging Men & Boys to End Violence Against Women in Partnership With women and Girls

During the year, the Council received \$280,166 from the Government of Alberta to support the cultural shift needed to end violence against women and girls using the Leading Change model. No amount was expended during the year, leaving an unexpended balance of \$280,166 at March 31, 2016.

S. Leading Change in Alberta Workplaces

During the year, the Council received \$213,167 from the Government of Alberta to train, educate and provide public awareness for employers, employees and the general public regarding domestic violence as a workplace hazard. No amount was expended during the year, leaving an unexpended balance of \$213,167 as at March 31, 2016.

T. Measuring Impact

During the year, the Council received \$134,006 from the Government of Alberta to identify, define and support shelter collection of appropriate data for contract monitoring and accountability. No amount was expended during the year, leaving an unexpended balance of \$134,006 as at March 31, 2016.

U. Making a Difference Through Education and Training

During the year, the Council received \$183,968 from the Government of Alberta to support consistent and sustainable shelter practices across the province. No amount was expended during the year, leaving an unexpended balance of \$183,968 as at March 31, 2016.

V. Men's Attitudes Survey

During the year, the Council expensed \$40,103 to undertake a survey regarding men's attitudes on violence against women in Alberta. Public and private sources have committed to partially cover the cost of this survey which will be reflected in fiscal year 2016-2017.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	2016		2015	
	Cost \$	Accumulated Amortization \$	Net Book Value \$	Net Book Value \$
Office equipment	\$48,558	\$44,355	\$ 4,203	\$ 5,254
Computer equipment	18,683	18,143	540	809
	<u>\$67,241</u>	<u>\$62,498</u>	<u>\$4,743</u>	<u>\$ 6,063</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.

	2016 \$	2015 \$
(a) Stabilization reserve The Council has established a stabilization reserve to hold three months of operating expenses.	82,000	62,000
(b) 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.	30,794	49,876
(c) Equipment reserve The Council has established a reserve for future capital equipment purchases.	20,000	-
(d) Moving/Renovation reserve The Council has established a reserve for moving/renovation expenditures.	26,072	-
	<u>158,866</u>	<u>111,876</u>

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

6. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Funds gained from a Casino event are placed in a separate bank account. These funds, which total \$27,488 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, March 31, 2016.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the organization will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. This risk is reduced by monitoring expenses and investing in guaranteed investment certificates when feasible.

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.

SCHEDULE 1

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
GRANT SCHEDULE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Operation/Council	379,129	124,190
Safety From Domestic Violence – Status of Women	48,600	-
Safety From Domestic Violence – Government of Alberta	41,267	-
Men's Attitude Survey	40,103	-
Building Informed Service Delivery In Second Stage Shelters	24,843	-
EPS-School Resources Officers Training Initiative	23,254	-
Building Shelter Capacity to Work With Aboriginal Communities	23,185	-
Family Business Connect	17,136	62,113
Engaging Men and Boys in Ending Violence	16,683	99,158
Alberta CFL Project – Government of AB	12,987	183,578
Alberta CFL Project – Kinsmen Club of Stampede City	11,320	-
Women's Shelter Leadership Bursary	9,719	37,500
Workplace Learning	9,054	55
National Victim Crime Week	5,806	250
IODE – Training Fund	3,346	5,200
SRO – Leading Change Project Evaluation	1,974	-
Child Care	1,463	3,089
Workplace Violence	1,179	884
Leading Change: Inspired Communities	260	-
2 nd Stage Shelters	-	13,997
National Crime Prevention Week	-	7,200
Information Exchange	-	5,000
	671,308	542,214

