

1998 - 1999
Annual Report



Alberta



Council of



Women's



Shelters

MISSION STATEMENT

We Believe

- *in a world free from violence and abuse*
- *in empowerment for women and the equal worth of all persons*
- *in the strength of numbers - working together for a common mission*
- *that the issues of violence and abuse are the responsibilities of legal, community, social and political structures*

Our Areas of Concern

- *issues of family violence*
- *breaking the cycle of inter-generational violence*

Our Focus

- *abused women and their families*

Our Purpose

- *to support and strengthen the sheltering movement in Alberta and within the ACWS membership*

Our Goals

- *to serve as the collective unified voice of member organizations*
- *to foster networking and information-sharing*
- *to assist in acquiring public policy and systems*
- *to increase public awareness of issues related to family violence*
- *to foster professional development within Alberta's sheltering movement*

ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 25th, 1999

Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel
10155 - 105 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 1E2

Glenora Dining Room

- 6:00 p.m. Cocktails
- 6:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner
- 7:15 p.m. **Entertainment: "The Raging Grannies"**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order - President, Jean Langdon
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes from the June 27th, 1998 Annual General Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
 - ◆ Audited Financial Statement
 - ◆ Appointment of Auditor for 1999 - 2000
5. Acceptance of 1998 - 1999 Annual Report
6. Nominations Report - Election of Officers
7. Adjournment

ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday, June 19th, 1999

Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel
10155 - 105 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 1E2
423-4811

Kananaskis Room

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Board Representative's Meeting

9:40 a.m. Call to Order

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Buffet Lunch

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Announcements
4. Introduction of New Members
5. Approval of Minutes from March 27th, 1999
6. Business Arising from the Minutes
7. Correspondence
8. Executive Committee Report
9. Committee Reports:
 - * Finance
 - * Personnel & Policy Procedures
 - * Social Issues
 - * Group Benefits Plan
 - * Standards
 - * Fundraising
 - * Aboriginal Issues
10. Provincial Coordinator's Report
11. Director's Meeting Report
12. Other Business
13. Date of Next Meeting
14. Adjournment

ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 26th, 1998
Edmonton, Alberta

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel.

ATTENDEES

Arlene Chapman	Alberta Council of Women's Shelters
Flavia Bourne	Alberta Council of Women's Shelters
Gerda Wittebrood	Brenda Strafford Centre
Joanna New	Brenda Strafford Centre
Rose Lameman	Calgary Native Women's Shelter Society
Moriah Boyd	Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter
Kathleen Nakagawa	Crossroads Resource Centre
Jean Langdon	Discovery House
Norma Peters	Discovery House
Gayle Vincent	Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre
Joie Dery	Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre
Robin Krause	Medicine Hat Women's Shelter
Diana Broekaert	Safe Home High Level
Pat Kulscar	Safe Home High Level
Connie Twin	Sucker Creek Women's Emergency Shelter
Mariella Sneddon	Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Center
Donna Hallett	Wheatland Communities Crisis Society
Lesley Lord	Yellowhead Emergency Shelter
Marj Luger	Yellowhead Emergency Shelter
Sharlene Campbell	YWCA Harbour House
Vedna McGill	YWCA Harbour House

Guests:	Barbara McDougall, Alberta Family & Social Services Caroline Knowles, Crisis Association of Vegreville Denis Lord, Yellowhead Emergency Shelter Doreen Waskewitch, Prince Charles School Dorothy Morris, IODE, Provincial Chapter Janet Linton, Metis Child & Family Services Joan Wright, The Support Network/CASP - Guest Speaker Mary Lou Dashewnek, Alberta Women's Coalition Pat Vargas, Violet Project Coordinator Randy Keeshig MacLeod, Representative Calgary Native Women's Shelter
---------	--

Absent:	Bigstone Cree Nation Women's Emergency Shelter Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter Camrose Women's Shelter Columbus House of Hope Edmonton Women's Shelter Hope Haven Society La Salle Residence Lloydminster Interval Home
---------	--

ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

	Lurana Shelter Odyssey House Peace River Regional Women's Shelter Pincher Creek Women's Emergency Shelter Strathcona Shelter Society Ltd. - A Safe Place Unity House, Fort McMurray Wings of Providence Youville Women's Residence YWCA Sheriff King Family Support Centre
--	--

Prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting, Jean Langdon introduced and welcomed all the guests. She then introduced our guest speaker Joan Wright.

Presentation began at 6:40 p.m.

Joan Wright is the Executive Director of The Support Network, a multi-service crisis centre in Edmonton, Alberta. She has been involved with the agency as a volunteer on the Distress Line, as Coordinator of Volunteers, and as Director of the Suicide Prevention Program, and has facilitated numerous workshops and presentations related to crisis intervention, suicide prevention, and suicide bereavement.

She is currently the Chair of the Crisis Planning Committee for the Mental Health Council of the Capital Health Authority and Past-President of the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention. Joan is also a designated Certification Examiner for the American Association of Suicidology (AAS).

The Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention (CASP) is involved with activities surrounding crisis intervention. One of their focuses has been accreditation for crisis workers.

It has been a time consuming process for ACWS, in seeking accreditation for our crisis workers around the province, however, it has begun. Some background information is as follows:

- ◆ AAS has come up with an exam that sets up standards that will and are applied to everyone across North America dealing with crisis intervention
- ◆ CASP is the Canadian version of this process and was begun ten years ago (*In Canada, only Ontario and Quebec have a certification program in place for crisis workers*)

ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

- ◆ CASP has taken on the role of being the intermediary body from which other Canadians involved in the crisis intervention field can proceed with accreditation
- ◆ Accreditation provides credibility to their skills and an affirmation on the work they do
- ◆ The exam itself is quite basic - questioning facts and procedures that should be followed on a daily basis by individuals working in the field
- ◆ The exam is meant for clinicians, volunteers and crisis workers
- ◆ The three main essentials the exam covers are:
 - 1) Knowledge
 - 2) Attitude
 - 3) Skills
- ◆ The advantages for individual certification are that it:
 - gives your credibility
 - allows an organization to focus on training needs
 - acts as a source of recognition
 - validates a chosen career

There are a list of the qualifications and requirements individuals must have before they write the accreditation exam (*protocols have previously been mailed*). Further, the individual must be actively involved in providing crisis intervention on a part-time basis as a minimum and note that the examination fee is in US funds.

There will be a pilot group who are going to write the exam. To date, the applicants are from Kara Family Support Centre, however, we would like our own crisis workers to join this pilot group. Please check with your crisis intervention workers and decide if they: 1) meet the requirements and 2) want to seek accreditation with this pilot project.

Presentation ended at 7:10 p.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 p.m. by President, Jean Langdon once quorum was achieved.

Approval of Agenda

Motion THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by: Joanna New
Seconded: Pat Kulscar
Carried.

ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Approval of Minutes of June 20th, 1997 Annual General Meeting

Motion THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20th, 1998 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BE APPROVED.

Moved by: Sharlene Campbell
Seconded: Gayle Vincent
Carried.

Treasurer's Report - RoseMarie McCarthy was away but the following was reported.

Motion THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Moved by: Sharlene Campbell
Seconded: Pat Kulscar
Carried.

Motion THAT THE FIRM OF HUGHES & GOMME BE APPOINTED AS THE AUDITORS FOR ACWS FOR 1998 - 1999.

Moved by: Mariella Sneddon
Seconded: Lesley Lord
Carried.

Acceptance of 1997 - 1998 ACWS Annual Report

Motion THAT THE 1997-1998 ACWS ANNUAL REPORT BE ACCEPTED.

Moved by: Robin Krause
Seconded: Sharlene Campbell
Carried.

Elections - Robin Krause was the Nomination Chair.

Motion THE ACCEPTANCE BY ACCLAMATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ◆ Jean Langdon, President
- ◆ Pat Carter, Secretary

Moved by: Robin Krause

ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Seconded: Joanna New
Carried.

Adjournment

Motion ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING AS THERE IS NO FURTHER
BUSINESS TO DISCUSS.

Moved by: Pat Kulscar
Carried.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.

ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS



PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

This year has been a very busy one for the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. We have continued to confer with government on a number of issues. Wage parity and a new funding model are two of the most critical issues that require ongoing negotiations. However, our discussions are not limited to those two areas, standards, impact of regionalization and accreditation are also major concerns and provide ample opportunity for discussion.

This year we have had three conferences, the Crisis Intervention Worker's Conference, the IODE Child Support Workers Conference and the Director's Workshop. All of these provide opportunity for a sharing of information, networking among professionals and acquisition of increased knowledge and/or skills. We are pleased to support these endeavors.

The Violet Project is a wonderful addition to the shelters. We were so pleased that the Muttart Foundation supported this endeavor with the provision of a computer to each member shelter. The clients and staff, for that matter, can now access information related to family violence on the web. Pat Vargas has been very conscientious in providing us with updates on the phases of the Violet Project.

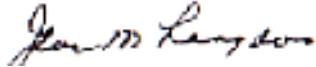
Our Provincial Coordinator, Arlene Chapman has had a very busy year with meetings regarding standards, wage parity, justice, writing of grant proposals for special events or to keep the council in operation, as well as visits and addresses to shelters and other agencies. Flavia Bourne, too, has been kept busy with the number of phone calls and requests for information, proposal writing, the benefit plan and the daily response to the phone, fax and email. We are so fortunate to have two such capable and knowledgeable people to represent the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters.

I want to thank the Board Representatives for their continued attendance, support and active participation in the work of the Council. I want to make a special note of the increasing number of Board Representatives who attend the Saturday morning sessions prior to the council meeting. Thank you so much!

ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

I know this year will provide all of you with special challenges. Please keep the Council aware of your progress, issues or special circumstances that we need to identify or address. The strength of the Council is our ability to work together, share information, respond to issues and adapt to change when we deem necessary. I know that we do have the ability to adapt and successfully meet the challenges of the future.

Respectively submitted by:



Jean M. Langdon
June, 1999

ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS



PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Issues affecting families experiencing violence continue to increase at an alarming rate. Edmonton will soon be setting up a third stage housing project. Frances Cearns from the Office for the Prevention of Family Violence (OPFV) has been working with the Housing Authority and Edmonton area shelter directors to make this happen. Of all the issues facing these family's, affordable safe housing remains extremely difficult to access throughout the province.

Anne McClelland, Minister of Justice, has announced that the proposed changes to the Divorce Act will be delayed for a further three years and then looked at again. This is fantastic news for all women but especially for women who live with violence. Lobby efforts from groups like ACWS have made the difference in this case.

ACWS had the casino on the 6 & 7 of April. Many thanks to all those who volunteered their time for this event! We will not know the financial outcome until the end of this quarter.

The PVAC (Provincial Voices for Action & Change) group that ACWS is a part of has been very busy. We have hired a researcher that will work part time at the ACWS office to monitor the transition of services as they go to the regions. It will be very important for shelters to advise ACWS of any problems they identify with the process. We received grant money from the Muttart Foundation to fund this position for a three-year period. The group has also met with Paula Tyler, ADM Children's Services to inform her of our work and to form a partnership. One Regional Authority who heard of our existence has already contacted us, and they have asked to participate with PVAC in the monitoring of the transitions of services. I believe we can expect some great information, which will allow us to do some very good advocating in the area of family violence.

ACWS has received funding from Status of Women Canada and Human Rights and Citizenship Branch to fund the Aboriginal Liaison position. Work must begin on this project immediately and I will meet with Rose Lameman and the Aboriginal Issues Committee to begin the procedure for hiring, and to structure what will be needed to succeed with this project. The original grant was changed somewhat to reduce what we first wished to accomplish. It is more realistic now and I believe we can do some excellent work in this area.

The Accreditation Committee has begun the work for this endeavor. It will be a very long, and I expect, arduous process. We will keep you informed of any and all developments.

ACWS has been asked to participate in a project through Alberta Justice. We have made an application to the Community Mobilization Grant in partnership with OPFV and several community agencies for a project on the implementation of the new PAVA. The project is

ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

called the "Development of Agency Based Protocols Sponsoring Group: Advisory Group of the Protection Against Family Violence Act Support Services Sub-Committee." We meet at OPFV frequently now but should have the major work completed before July. Implementation strategies will begin in the fall. I will have more to report on at the September meeting.

The Crisis Intervention Workers training conference was extremely well received and well attended. The evaluations were very positive and the Committee will make a report at Council. Many thanks to the Committee members for their assistance with the conference. The Director's workshop was held in Hinton quickly following the CIW conference. It was an excellent facility and very successful as well. Many thanks to the Committee and hats off to Marj Luger for a job well done.

Much time is consumed with writing funding proposals for the continuation of ACWS. This has become increasingly difficult as the funders requirements have changed and agencies like ACWS no longer qualify for funding. As we have had to access the Contingency Fund this year, ACWS will need to secure a fund raising project in order to remain solvent in the coming year. Anyone with any ideas or suggestions please contact the ACWS Fund Raising Committee or myself.

We have been very fortunate in obtaining new computer equipment and new programs, which are Y2K compliant. The ACWS office continues to be extremely busy and we will continue to do all projects, booklets etc. in house. Also, the Great West Life Benefits Plan is soon to go live on the Internet for all transactions. The site is protected so all information will be strictly confined to ACWS and Great West Life.

Please be advised that ACWS has cancelled the STD portion of our GWL Benefit package as of June 01st, 1999 and we have reduced the LTD to a maximum of 5 years from age 65. The Benefits committee was forced to do this as the rates for these two benefits increased by 500% due to overuse. Staff will notice an increase in the cost of their LTD portion this month, which could not be avoided. We are looking for ways to further reduce the cost of the LTD portion. It is very important that shelter staff are notified about the benefit changes and that shelters obtain the necessary information to go with the E.I. STD piece. A letter from the benefits company will be going out to all shelters and should be received prior the Council Meeting.

ACWS was invited to attend the press conference at Government House pertaining to the proclamation of the new PAVA. This was a good media opportunity for ACWS and we received good coverage. It will be very important to monitor the implementation of the Act. If you have any comments on the implementation of the Act in your areas, please advise ACWS. We are in a position to advocate for changes if they prove necessary.

It will be a very busy few months for ACWS as we take on new staff and work on two major projects. I look forward to updating the membership on what is accomplished over the summer.