



ACWS Backgrounder

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) an umbrella organization and registered charity that represents all of the women's emergency, second stage and senior's shelters across the province. For 25 years, ACWS has supported shelters with public awareness campaigns, professional development and training for shelter workers, and research and data collection to support collaborative action.

ACWS one of two Canadian NGO's who are members of the World Health Organization's Violence Prevention Alliance, which gives us access to global information

Women's shelters are fundamental partners in providing a community based collaborative response to the issues of violence against women and children. Shelters provide critical interventions, risk assessments, programs, access to other essential social services as well as a safe haven to ensure that a woman is enabled with the necessary support and skills to keep herself and her children safe. The shelters also do amazing work, in schools, with men's groups, and in collaboration with other agencies, to help heal whole families and whole communities.

By addressing their immediate needs, shelters provide a safe haven for women and their children fleeing from abuse. But, shelters do much more than that. They provide programs and access to services that enable women and their families to make positive changes in their lives and move toward self-sufficiency and a life free from violence.

The 1st World Conference of Women's Shelters is a milestone initiative, that will enable shelters in Canada and around the world to establish new partnerships and to reinforce existing networks while at the same time, offering an unprecedented forum for sharing best practices and innovative approaches.

The World Conference of Women's Shelters was generated out of a meeting ACWS attended of Latin American and Mexican shelters in Mexico City in 2006.

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