

30TH
ANNIVERSARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

Alberta Council of Women's Shelters



**KEEP
COLLABORATING
AND
LEAD
CHANGE**



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About ACWS

30 years of inspired collaboration



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 (2012-2013)

- Barbara Young, President
- Karen Pease, Vice President
- David Monroe, Secretary
- Janene Moch, Treasurer
- Brenda Rebman
- Brigitte Baradoy
- Edna Willier
- Lois Day
- Marjorie Luger
- Nora-Lee Rear
- Noreen Cotton
- Pat Garrett

ACWS Office

- Jan Reimer, Executive Director
- Carolyn Goard, Director Member Programs and Services
- Ken Seto, Finance and Information Administrator
- Christie Lavan, Communications and Partnerships Advisor
- Jennifer Ness, Office Administrator
- Amy Mercure, Evaluation and Research



*"Alone we can do so little,
together we can do so
much."
- Helen Keller*

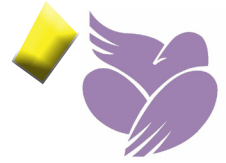
Our Valued Collaborators

- Alberta Federation of Labour
- ATB Financial
- Bee Clean
- Bon Ton Bakery
- Butler Family Foundation
- C & JH Montgomery
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Canadian Women’s foundation
- CN
- Community Spirit Grant, Province of Alberta
- Dianne AND Irv Kipness Foundation
- Donna Hammerlindl
- Doreen Godfrey
- Edmonton City Centre
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Edmonton Police Commission
- Enbridge
- Epcor
- Flanagan Foundation
- Health Sciences Association of Alberta
- Human Services, Government of Alberta
- Imperial Order of the Daughter’s of the Empire
- International Council of Shopping Centres
- Jacquie Schaffter
- Ledcor
- Mammoet
- National Crime Prevention Centre, Justice Canada
- National Victims of Crime Awareness Week Fund, Justice Canada
- Patrick McDonald
- Professional Locksmiths
- Robert Weir
- Safe Communities Initiative Fund, Alberta Justice & Solicitor General
- Servus
- Shaw
- Status of Women Canada, Government of Canada
- STEP Program, Human Resources, Province of Alberta
- Syncrude
- Telus Calgary Community Foundation
- Telus Edmonton Community Foundation
- The Calgary Foundation
- Union 52 Benevolent society



*“Finally, I can sleep tonight!”
- Shelter Resident*

Photo: “Shape of Nature”, Christopher Shaw



Leadership Messages

Photo: "A New Beginning", Peter Quinn

*"If everyone is moving forward together,
then success takes care of itself."
-Henry Ford*

Leadership Messages


ACWS President: Barbara Young

Looking Back

As I finish my term as President I have had a chance to reflect on what has been accomplished in the last five years. I am amazed and impressed by the number of major accomplishments of ACWS. The organization has grown and spread its influence to the far corners of the world. Services to members have expanded and new initiatives have been formulated and implemented.

When I first took on the job ACWS was just about to host the First World Conference of Women's Shelters. What an amazing experience. And it didn't stop there. The ongoing stream of accomplishments included:

- Building of a **Cooperative Working Relationship** with our major funder and related organizations has involved all parts of the organization, staff, members and board. This mutually beneficial collaboration has led to an optimization of resources and positive outcomes for shelters.
- The introduction of a new data base and a clearly defined role for ACWS in ensuring **Data Collection and Analysis** consistent with client confidentiality and still supplying data necessary to document outcomes to funders was an enormous undertaking of both ACWS staff and member shelters. The ability for shelters and ACWS to interpret their data to the province through the Information Sharing Agreement and common data base has the organization well positioned to address changes and has provided ACWS with the ability to contextualize the data around shelter needs as opposed to having government interpreting it for us and raising issues with the public that are not accurate.
- Work done in support of **Enhanced Shelter Funding** has been effective in gaining salary increases for shelter workers and raising awareness of the parity issue with on-reserve shelters.
- Development of a **Second-Stage Position Statement** and addressing second-stage issues with the provincial government has increased awareness substantially in this area and resulted in greater understanding of those involved in funding.

- 
- Completion of the work of the **Long Term Working Group** – a collaboration between the provincial government and ACWS – has addressed the need for government to focus on outcomes as well as increasing their understanding of issues faced by shelters.
 - **Introduction of Tools and Services** – Walking the Path Together, Family Violence and the Workplace, Danger Assessment expansion to include aboriginal assessment tools, the Children’s Project, and the Making Amends project are just some of the many initiatives that have been successfully completed.
 - On the **National and International Level** ACWS has made a major contribution to increased cooperation and sharing of best practices in the Sheltering Community.
 - And most recently, acceptance by government of the need for a **Death Review Initiative** and the development of a Death Review Committee, has addressed a need that the organization and its members has been asking be addressed for a number of years.

Looking Forward

The work that has been undertaken through the Organizational Review was initiated in response to Shelter Directors raising questions about the future direction of ACWS. It was time that this was done, the current organization having been in place for the last ten years. The contribution of Shelter Directors and Board members has led to proposed revisions in Board structure and recommendations for changes in the role of Shelter Directors meetings.

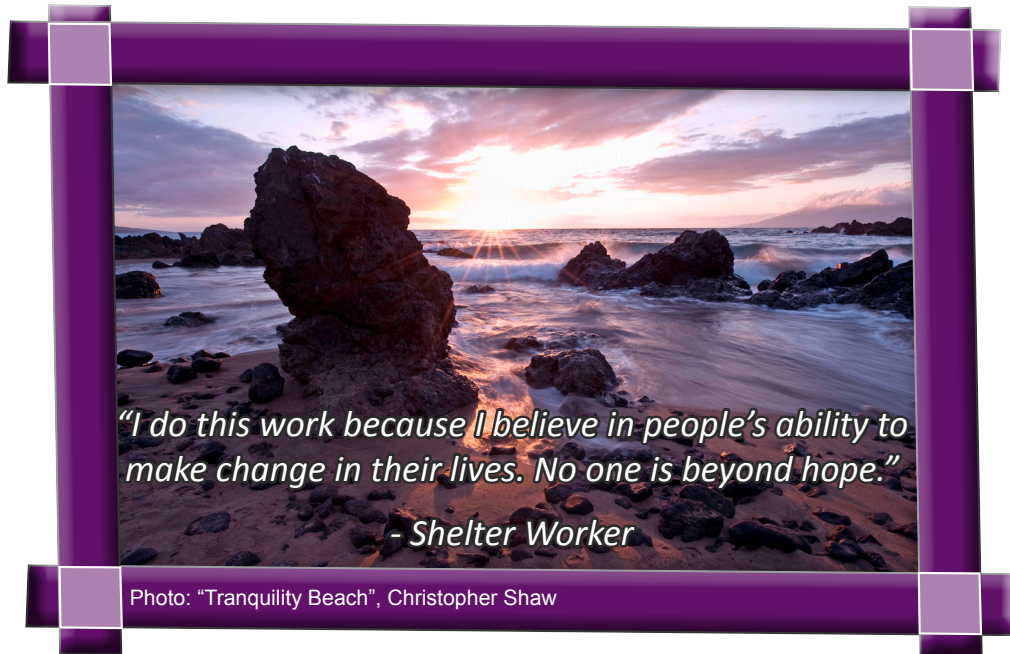
Responsibility for advice to ACWS for on-reserve and educational initiatives has been shifted from the Board to the Shelter Directors. Both the On-Reserve Committee and the SPEC Committee have been dissolved and how their roles will be handled in the future incorporated into the way Shelter Directors would like that group to be structured. Thanks needs to go to the members of those committees for the great work they have done in the past. I am sure that they can continue to contribute under the new structure that the Shelter Directors are working to develop for their meetings.

As the organization moves forward every effort will be made to see greater inclusion of Board Members and an expanding role for the organization in influencing change in the community. The introduction of Community Members on the Board will give ACWS more leverage to do this. The vision of a world free of violence is a large one. If ACWS can have a part in reducing Family Violence and helping the victims build new lives it is one step down the road. I wish you all success in this tremendous endeavor. I will be cheering for you.

Barbara Young

ACWS President

June 4, 2013



"I do this work because I believe in people's ability to make change in their lives. No one is beyond hope."

- Shelter Worker

Photo: "Tranquility Beach", Christopher Shaw



Executive Director: Jan Reimer

Thirty years ago, Alberta's women's shelter organizations banded together because they recognized the power of a collective, unified voice in achieving our vision of a world free from violence and abuse. While we are not there yet, this milestone anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect and celebrate the gains made by working together.

Before the advent of women's shelters, domestic violence was considered a "private" matter and abused women were severely limited in their choices. Now there is a network of supports all across the province. We have grown from nine members running nine shelters to 43 member organizations, who together deliver a rich spectrum of services, from dedicated shelters and programmes for seniors, aboriginal and immigrant women, affordable housing, outreach, men's programming, specialized child care and children's groups, to strong partnerships with other service providers to ensure women are able to reach their goals in a system responsive to their needs. Over the years, women's shelters have become much more than residential centers, they have also leant their voice and their expertise to advocate for social justice.

During this time, Alberta shelters working with ACWS have developed a rich body of knowledge to enhance and improve their interventions, moving from filling out those blue, peach and yellow forms for government funders, to a sophisticated data base to inform their practice, their communities and the world.

While there are still gaps, by working together we have seen increases to shelter funding, improved police response, greater public awareness, more financial support for abused women and their children, the engagement of men in our cause, educational materials specific to addressing violence against women and children, programs for working with men who perpetrate violence, a recognition that violence against women also impacts the workplace and the emergence of a Canadian and Global Network, linking shelters around the world.

Three decades ago, the first ACWS president Ardis Beaudry once said, "A shelter is still a band-aid solution. Certainly we need shelters, no question about that. But it has to go much deeper. Society has to change."

This spirit continues on today: during the organizational review members told us that they saw a dual role for ACWS: *supporting shelters and ending domestic violence.*

Although there is still so much we're learning about, the one thing that we know for certain is that by working together, we make a difference.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our members, our board and ACWS staff for their strong commitment and dedication, not only in the last year but for more than three decades. A special thank you to outgoing president Barb Young, for her unwavering commitment to achieve our vision of a world free from violence and abuse.

Shelters save lives, and until the day they are no longer needed, we are inspired to continue collaborating with them to end violence for seniors, women, their children and the world.

Jan Reimer

Executive Director, ACWS





Committee Reports



Photo: <http://www.casott.on.ca/en/community-awareness/>

No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.

—H.E. Luccock

Committee Reports

Board Governance Committee

The Governance Committee per se was inactive in 2012-13. As a result of the organizational review undertaken in 2011-12, the Board created a subcommittee composed solely of Board members and staff to develop proposals for a new Board structure and to work on suggested amendments to the by-laws. The subcommittee was composed of David Monroe (chair), Lois Day, Janene Moch, Brigitte Baradoy, Barbara Young, Carolyn Goard and Jan Reimer.

This subcommittee was charged with developing a new Board structure that maintains strong representation from our members, but also allows for board members from the community at large. As well, it undertook a complete review of the by-laws and proposed a number of changes. These changes were based on the need to reflect a new Board composition, on the desire to update the bylaws to reflect current practice and on the principle of keeping the bylaws as easy to understand as possible.

Its progress and the recommendations that were accepted by the Board were documented in a number of bulletins issued by ACWS over the past several months, and are reflected in the proposed new bylaws that the membership will be asked to approve at the 2013 AGM.

Preparation for Elections to the Board at the AGM

In a further change from past practice, the Board created a Nominating Committee to look after the important job of seeking out qualified people from the community to serve on the proposed restructured board as well as working with the shelters to ensure there would be appropriate candidates from the new groupings of shelters that replaced the old geographical set up. This committee was chaired by Lois Day, with members Janene Moch, David Monroe and Barb Young, Jan Reimer and Carolyn Goard.

At the time of writing, this committee is still hard at work and we are confident that by the time of the AGM there will be an attractive slate of candidates seeking election or re-election

David J. Monroe and Lois Day
Committee Chairs



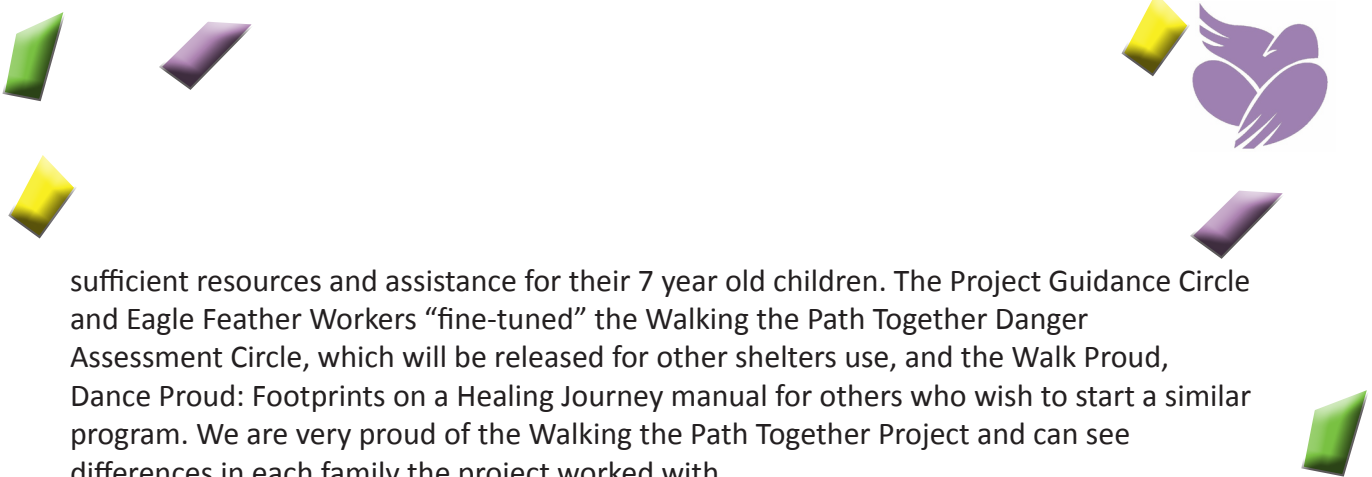
On-Reserve Shelter Committee

The 2012/13 year has been very busy for the On Reserve Shelter Committee.

The 2012/13 fiscal year for On Reserve Shelters started with a deduction in funding to one shelter and again, without any increase in funding by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. However, as a collective, we banded together and met with AANDC who promised to “find” funding to return the one shelter to meet previous years’ funding levels. In December 2012 the On Reserve Shelters held a March and Round Dance in Edmonton, raising awareness about the plight of On Reserve Shelter funding. The On Reserve Shelters met with Ministers from the NDP and Liberals, as well as representatives from AANDC, while in Ottawa at a Conference for On Reserve Shelter Directors hosted by NACAFC. Our meetings resulted in expressions of sympathies for our plight, and a letter from one Ministers office to another, imploring for the Minister of AANDC to increase funding to On Reserve Shelters. AANDC responded to our visit, by asking to visit the On Reserve Shelters in early January 2013. The AANDC visits did not bring any hope to the On Reserve Shelters as AANDC would not commit to stable or increased funding for coming years. The Committee has worked hard to increase public awareness of the need for increased funding to shelters and the barriers to addressing the issues of family violence On Reserves. We are yet to see results from our efforts to gain parity and equality for Aboriginal women and children, but are hopeful that politicians on all levels will show a desire to change the status quo that contributes to the continued oppression of women and children.

Alberta Human Services announced in the spring of 2013 that those members with Fee for Service Agreements would again see an increase in the per diem rates on their contracts for the 2013/14 fiscal year. We are thankful for the increase; however our shelters still face huge struggles with funding disparities being one of the biggest hurdles we face in addressing family violence in our respective communities.

On a positive note, the Walking the Path Together Project continues to be a huge success for 5 of the On Reserve Shelters, having shown to have a cost-benefit ratio of 1:5.42, with \$5.42 saved for every dollar invested. Unfortunately, we were advised in March that ACWS would no longer be receiving Safe Communities Initiatives Funding for this program. The Eagle Feather Workers continue to work to ensure families have

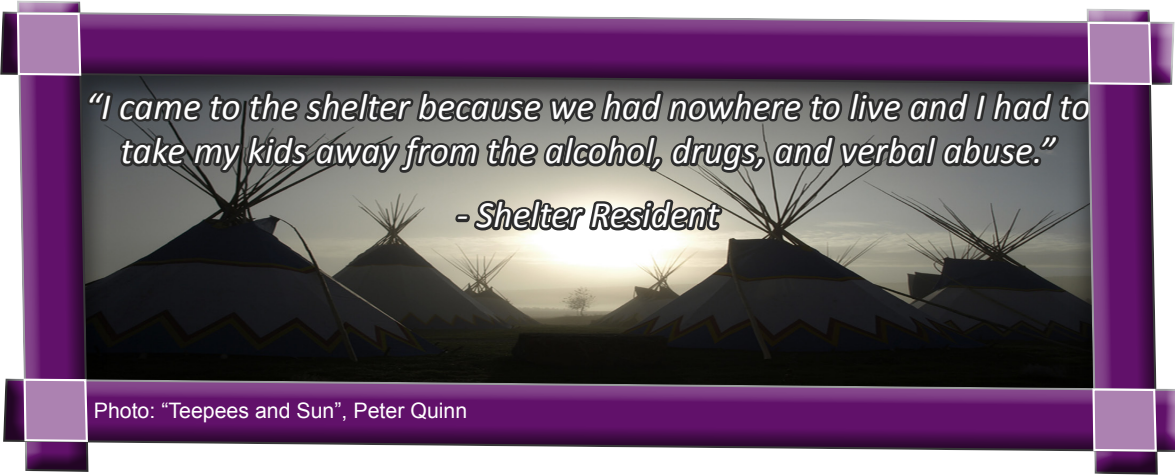


sufficient resources and assistance for their 7 year old children. The Project Guidance Circle and Eagle Feather Workers “fine-tuned” the Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment Circle, which will be released for other shelters use, and the Walk Proud, Dance Proud: Footprints on a Healing Journey manual for others who wish to start a similar program. We are very proud of the Walking the Path Together Project and can see differences in each family the project worked with.

Even if at times challenging, the On Reserve Shelter Committee continues to work together to better the lives of families fleeing family violence On Reserve. Our First Nations women and children are the centre of our work, and it is for the healing of our families that we work hard to address every day.

Nora-Lee Rear

Chair, On-Reserve Shelter Directors Committee



“I came to the shelter because we had nowhere to live and I had to take my kids away from the alcohol, drugs, and verbal abuse.”

- Shelter Resident

Photo: “Teepees and Sun”, Peter Quinn

Shelter Programs and Education Committee (SPEC)

The Shelter Programs and Education Committee (SPEC) has been an ACWS standing Board committee for years. Many of the present members have been on for 10 years or more. This committee contributed to the creation of the aspirational standards, oversaw the development of the Shelter Directors' Manual, coordinated front line and shelter director leadership training, and approved individual leadership bursary applications.

With the input of the ACWS membership across the province, we have contributed to the legacy of focusing on Children Exposed to Family Violence thanks to training and curriculum developed with Peter Jaffe and Linda Baker, explored aboriginal ways with Martin Brokenleg and The Circle of Courage, learned negotiation skills at the University of Alberta and group leadership training at the University of Calgary Haskayne School of Business, participated in experiential leadership training through Banff Centre as well as collaborated with Portage College to inform the development and continuation of the Shelter Worker Program.

Highlights of this past year include another wonderful group leadership opportunity in October 2012 at Banff Centre, where 29 shelter directors and managers joined together to experience cultural enrichment, knowledge, and awareness from renowned facilitators in the Aboriginal Management Program. We have since incorporated regular Aboriginal content to our meetings. Plans to hold a follow-up to this training are underway. Individual Bursary: three individual leadership bursary applications were approved this year, totaling \$14,841.

We look forward to the opportunities to inform training, education and programs that a new ACWS structure will provide.

Thank you to the dedication, expertise and passion of the committee members: Pat Garrett, Joy Johnson-Green, Marj Luger, Kathleen Nakagawa, Josie Nepanuik, Brenda Rebman and Pat Vargas. It has been an honor to work alongside you!

Karen Pease

Chair, Shelter Programs and Education Committee (SPEC)



Social and Legal Issues and Ethics Committee (SLEC)

Over the last year, SLEC reviewed documentation to support the forward movement of three important initiatives. These documents were:

- The Integrated Information Sharing and Access Agreement
- The Strength in Numbers: A 10-Year Trend Analysis of Women’s Shelters in Alberta Report
- The Organizational Assessment and Baseline Survey for the ACWS Domestic Violence in the Workplace Initiative

The ACWS Integrated Information Sharing and Access Agreement developed to replace the original agreement signed by Members and ACWS in 2001 affirms the original intent of Member Organizations and ACWS to utilize aggregate data to better understand shelter usage rates, trends, needs and issues relating to family violence thus supporting development of operating practices and information that serve the best interests of victims of family violence. The agreement also reflects newly established roles and responsibilities that came with the adoption of Outcome Tracker as the preferred common database for use by the membership. The agreement allows ACWS access to the data so it may provide the membership with aggregate results and analysis on an annual basis as well as supports Member organizations including specific research questions and information from time to time so that ACWS can better represent its membership and to support specific practice and policy projects. Given the significance of the data being collected, and the number of ways in which it could and will be used, the agreement was first reviewed by a lawyer followed by several iterations of this agreement being reviewed by SLEC to ensure that the needs of all parties were appropriately addressed. We believe the final document does just that.

A direct example of the significance of consistent data collection by the shelters can be seen in the report, “Strength in Numbers: A 10-Year Trend Analysis of Women’s Shelters in Alberta.” As the title suggests, this report reflects a review of all shelter data collected between 2000 and 2010. It provides a clearer understanding of the profile and characteristics of women serviced by Alberta shelters which can then inform shelter practice and provide evidence based information to funders, donors, and decision makers.

This comprehensive report was reviewed by SLEC for the purposes of providing input on the points to emphasize as well as for recommendation for Board acceptance.

The final document reviewed by the SLEC was the Organizational Assessment and Baseline Survey, an important part of the ACWS Domestic Violence in the Workplace Initiative. The survey was developed as a type of “pre-post” measure of employees’ understanding, knowledge, and attitudes of domestic violence prior to ACWS providing educational training workshops. Having this information allows the trainer to better understand how to work with that particular organization and potentially modify the training curriculum according to the workplace culture.

The SLEC members provided a perfect blend of expertise and perspectives needed for the above described projects. Thanks go out to Sister Joanne Macaulay, Kelly Ernst, Leslie MacRae, Deborah Miller, and Noreen Cotton for their thorough and thoughtful consideration in reviewing these documents, and Carolyn Goard in supporting the Committee’s work.

Brigitte Baradoy

Chair, Social and Legal Issues and Ethics Committee (SLEC)





Financial Statements



Photo: "Goose Salute Nature at its Best", Randy Day

*"The secret is to gang up on the problem,
rather than each other."
—Thomas Stalkamp*

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Financial Statements

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF
WOMEN'S SHELTERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

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




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)
Terry Truong (ext. 307)
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, 2013 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, 2013 and March 31, 2012, and net assets for both the March 31, 2013 and 2012 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2013 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, 2013, 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

June 6, 2013
Edmonton, Alberta



2012-2013

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MARCH 31, 2013**

	2013 \$	2012 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2 and 6)	365,191	1,027,710
Grant receivable	46,701	164,311
Prepaid	1,000	7,000
GST receivable	22,436	26,143
Guaranteed investment certificate	500,000	-
	935,328	1,225,164
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Notes 2 and 4)	8,929	11,336
	944,257	1,236,500
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	56,753	96,635
Unexpended grants (Note 3)	417,340	713,463
Deferred contributions related to operations	47,074	4,219
	521,167	814,317
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	297,285	293,971
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS (Note 5)	116,876	116,876
INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT	8,929	11,336
	423,090	422,183
	944,257	1,236,500

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

_____ Director

_____ Director

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

	2013			2012	
	Investment in Property and Equipment \$	Internally Restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	Total \$	Total \$
BALANCE, beginning of year	11,336	116,876	293,971	422,183	475,775
Excess of revenue over expenses	-	-	907	907	(12,018)
Transfers to (from) reserves (Note 5)	-	-	-	-	(41,574)
Investment in property and equipment	(2,407)	-	2,407	-	-
BALANCE, end of year	8,929	116,876	297,285	423,090	422,183

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
REVENUES		
Grants (Schedule 1)	1,824,101	2,276,540
Government of Alberta	250,000	250,000
Donations	89,053	135,120
Fundraising	85,620	116,515
Registration and workshop fees	81,797	7,426
Casino revenue	76,731	-
Status of Women Canada	40,000	60,000
Membership fees	30,900	29,850
Interest and other income	20,078	11,454
	2,498,280	2,886,905
EXPENDITURES		
Wages and employee benefits	1,141,528	1,281,042
Program expenses	1,066,459	1,316,585
Recruitment and training	105,159	36,073
Occupancy costs	81,026	83,133
Office and miscellaneous	40,483	107,048
Shelter Emergency Distributions	18,416	24,758
Telephone	14,370	15,330
Annual General Meeting	13,500	17,386
Professional fees	7,484	4,602
Insurance	3,265	3,336
Repairs and maintenance	3,150	3,161
Casino expense	126	-
Newsletter and brochures	-	3,375
Amortization	2,407	3,094
	2,497,373	2,898,923
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	907	(12,018)

In the prior year, expenses of \$13,039 are due to one-time transition costs with respect to implementation of Outcome Tracker. The ACWS Board discussed the matter and passed a motion that up to \$13,000 be added to the Outcome Tracker Reserve from the unallocated surplus and retained earnings for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of expenses over revenues for the year	907	(12,018)
Items not affecting cash-		
Amortization of property and equipment	2,407	3,094
Change in non-cash working capital items -		
Decrease (Increase) in Grants and GST receivable	121,317	(29,368)
Increase (Decrease) in deferred contributions	42,855	(9,327)
(Decrease) Increase in unexpended grants	(296,123)	(669,533)
Decrease (Increase) in prepaid expenses	6,000	(7,000)
(Decrease) Increase in accounts payable	(39,882)	22,689
	(162,519)	(701,563)
FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Transfer from reserves	-	(41,574)
	-	(41,574)
(DECREASE) IN CASH	(162,519)	(743,137)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	1,027,710	1,770,847
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	865,191	1,027,710

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013**

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>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Cash	\$ 19,539	\$ 12,756
Cash – casino account	82,285	60,898
Savings account	<u>263,367</u>	<u>954,056</u>
	<u>\$ 365,191</u>	<u>\$ 1,027,710</u>



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013**

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, 2013

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**

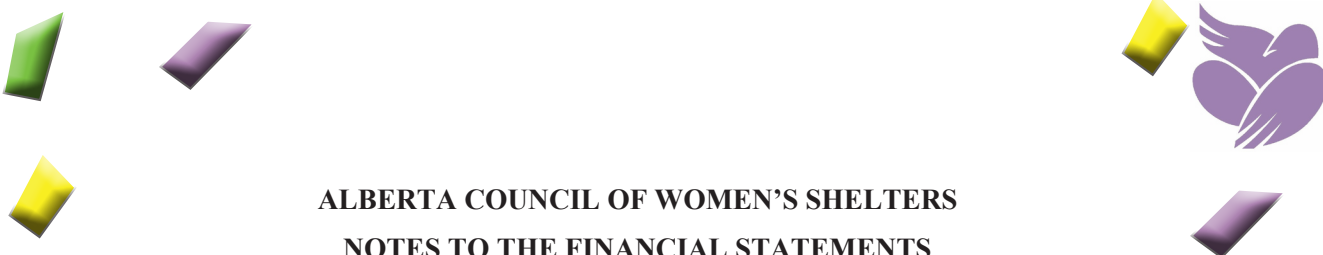
Unexpended grants represent funds whose resources are to be used for an identified purpose as specified by the agency providing the funds. Management keeps internal records reporting results on project by project basis. The balance of the unexpended funds is comprised of the following:

A. Children Exposed To Family Violence

In a prior year, the Council received funds from the Government of Alberta to develop a curriculum and provide training to shelter workers, child welfare workers and community stakeholders on children exposed to violence so as to reduce the negative impact on children at risk. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$7,735. \$7,735 was expended during the year leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2013 of \$ 0.

B. Taking a Stand – Alberta Justice

In a prior 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 \$96,243. During the year, \$96,243 was expended leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2013 of \$0.



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013**

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 \$197,348. During the year, \$68,788 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at year end of \$128,560.

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 \$33,301. During the year, the Council received \$50,000 and expended \$81,874 on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2013 of \$ 1,427.

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 \$105,409. During the year, the Council received \$130,000 from various businesses and \$55,389 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2013 of \$180,020.

F. Information Exchange

During the 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. No amount was expended during the year leaving a balance of \$5,000 at March 31, 2013.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

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 \$21,146. During the year, the Council received \$10,000 and \$13,500 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$17,646 at March 31, 2013.

H. Walking The Path Together – NCPC

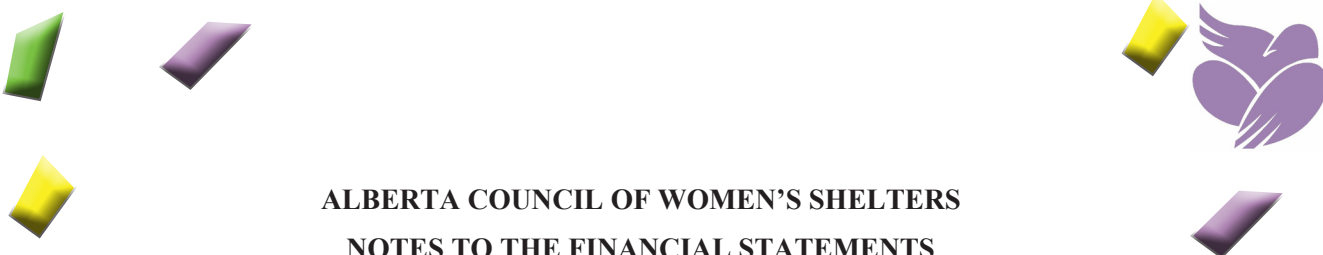
During the year, the Council received \$486,354 from the National Crime Prevention Centre to foster crime prevention in Aboriginal communities by addressing early risk factors in vulnerable families and children at risk. During the year, \$486,354 was expended on the project leaving a \$0 balance at March 31, 2013.

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 \$121,102. During the year, the Council received \$234,132 and \$310,081 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$45,153 at March 31, 2013.

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 \$21,365. During the year, the Council received \$36,000 and \$36,862 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$20,503 at March 31, 2013.



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013**

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

K. National Crime Week Prevention

During the year, the Council received \$10,000 for an awareness campaign to educate the public on how to best help victims of domestic violence. During the year, \$10,000 was expended leaving an unexpended balance of \$0 at March 31, 2013.

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 \$32,090 and \$20,000 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$12,090 at March 31, 2013.

M. Uniting to End Violence

During the year, the Council received \$367,075 to bring together provincial/territorial shelter organizations across Canada to improve the access to, and quality of, services for women who are in abusive situations. During the year, \$367,075 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$0 at March 31, 2013.

N. National Victim Crime Week

During the 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. During the year, \$8,306 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$1,694 at March 31, 2013.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

O. 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 \$38,911. During the year, \$11,301 was expended on the project and \$22,363 was transferred to CNWTHS leaving a balance of \$5,247 at March 31, 2013.

P. Canadian Women’s Foundation – Violence Prevention Review

In the prior year, the Council received \$5,000 to facilitate the national exchange of innovative, promising and model shelter practices across Canada and make new advances in the development of high quality services for women experiencing abuse. The unexpended balance at the beginning of the year was \$4,070. During the year, \$4,070 was expended on the project leaving a balance of \$0 at March 31, 2013.

Q. Justice and Attorney General - Civil Forfeiture

In the prior year, the Council received \$150,000 to provide increased supports for women residents in rural shelters. The grant is also intended to train workers on Legal Aid processes and procedures to better aid women in shelters. The unexpended balance at the beginning of the year was \$34,743. During the year, \$34,743 was expended on the project leaving a balance of \$0 at March 31, 2013.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	2013		2012	
	Cost \$	Accumulated Amortization \$	Net Book Value \$	Net Book Value \$
Office equipment	\$48,558	\$40,349	\$ 8,209	\$10,262
Computer equipment	17,591	16,871	720	1,074
	<u>\$66,149</u>	<u>\$57,220</u>	<u>\$8,929</u>	<u>\$11,336</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.

	2013 \$	2012 \$
(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	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>116,876</u>	<u>116,876</u>

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

6. **RESTRICTED FUNDS**

Funds gained from a Casino event are placed in a separate bank account. These funds, which total \$82,285 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.

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, 2013.

Credit risk

The Council is exposed to credit risk with respect to guaranteed investment certificates deposits, accounts receivable and the grant receivable. The Council assesses, on a continuous basis, accounts receivable on the basis of amounts it is virtually certain to receive. The credit risk with respect to guaranteed investment certificates is insignificant since they are held in large financial institutions.

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.



SCHEDULE 1

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
GRANT SCHEDULE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013**



	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Walking The Path Together – NCPC	486,354	479,992
United to End Violence	367,075	630,118
Walking The Path Together-SCIF	310,081	426,324
Operations/Council	194,970	206,272
Taking a Stand	96,243	72,165
Workplace Violence - HSAA	81,874	72,232
Bursary Program – Children’s Services (recovery)	68,787	37,545
Family Business Connect	55,391	4,591
Child Care	36,861	98,535
Making Amends	34,743	95,539
Stollery	20,000	33,949
IODE – Crisis Training	13,500	5,500
UN Women – Canadian Network	11,301	57,061
National Crime Prevention Week	10,000	10,000
CNWTWS Forum	9,959	-
National Victim Crime Week	8,306	-
CEFV	7,735	-
CWF – Legislation Funds	6,851	-
CWF – Canadian Network	4,070	-
Aboriginal Awareness	-	17,461
Practical Frameworks for Change	-	15,700
Global Secretariat	-	8,434
World Conference	-	4,113
Elder Abuse	-	1,009
	1,824,101	2,276,540



2012-2013

30TH ANNIVERSARY

