

Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018



MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
TOGETHER



# ACWS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## **Traditional Land Acknowledgment**

ACWS acknowledges the traditional lands upon which we live, work, and play. We recognize that all Albertans are Treaty people and have a responsibility to understand our history so That we can honor the past, be aware of the present, and create a just and caring future. ACWS celebrates and values the resiliency, successes, and teachings that Alberta's Indigenous people have shown us, as well as the unique contributions of every Albertan.

The ACWS office is located on Treaty 6 land, which is the traditional territory of the Plains Cree and an ancient gathering place of many Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. These lands have also been home to and a central trading place of the Blackfoot, Nakota, Assiniboine, Dene, and the Métis people of western Canada.

We honour the courage and strength of Indigenous women. We honor them as life givers and care givers as we honor and learn from their continuing achievements, their consistent strength, and their remarkable endurance.

Our members – and the participating shelters in this project - serve all nations and all peoples; they are located on Treaty 6, 7 and 8 lands across this province which include the six Metis regions of Alberta.

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## WHO WE ARE

### ACWS BOARD 2017/18

**Brenda Rebman**, President

**Pamela Wicks**, Vice President and Treasurer

**Karen Reynolds**, Secretary

**Lyla Allan**, Director

**Gaye Warthe**, Director

**Denis Callihoo**, Director

**Jeanette Sandstra**, Director

**Beryl Willier**, Director

**Sherrie Botten**, Director

**Michele Taylor**, Director

**Brian Simpson**, Public Director

**Kelly-Ann Fenney**, Public Director

**Brittany Johnson**, Public Director

Partial term:

**Anthony Oliver**, Director

### ACWS Staff 2017/18

**Jan Reimer**, Executive Director

**Carolyn Goard**, Director of Member Services

**Christie Lavan**, Leading Change Program Developer

**Tuval Dinner Nafshi**, Leading Change Community Developer

**Lisa Klemp**, Leading Change Support

**Eoin Murray**, Communications and Partnerships Advisor

**Sarah Dawson**, Communications Support

**Catie Hickman**, Training and Program Development Advisor

**Cat VanWielingen**, Data and Project Advisor

**Jennifer Ness**, Finance, Data and Member Support

Partial Term:

**Nicole Sinclair**, Office Administrator

**Jade Gelmici**, Office Administrator



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear ACWS member,

2017/18 was the year that ACWS deepened our impact on the world. Following the 2015 funding bump the organisation laid solid foundations for sustainability by developing new plans, systems and processes. In 2017/18 we used these platforms to elevate our work. Throughout this we have consciously conducted monitoring and evaluation of all our work to demonstrate our collective impact in the lives of women, children and seniors. This year we are proud to share some of these highlights with you.

### ***Inventory of Promising Practices***

A lack of integrated, trauma informed, and women's centered approaches to service delivery act as significant barriers to keeping women safe from violence.

The "*Safety from domestic violence: Using evidence based practices to keep women safe*" project, developed and facilitated by the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS), builds on the individual and collaborative work of community and government services in Alberta to address barriers to women's safety by identifying promising practices in service provision for women fleeing violence.

After two years of consultation, research and analysis published an online inventory, which is available for all service providers to identify, use and share promising practices. The Inventory is a model for excellence in service delivery which places women, children and seniors at the heart of everything service providers do. It now serves as a hub of information for all members and other organisations seeking to deliver the highest-possible standards of collaborative responses.

### ***Measuring Impact***

Our shared data set with members is one of the most complex, effective and well-established social justice data sets in Canada. Over the year the board's Social, Legal and Ethics Committee re-



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

viewed and recommended to the Board some updates to the Information Sharing Agreement, as it was being renewed for another 5 year term and is a condition of membership.

The work of the second-stage committee to collect, analyse and publish information about the positive impact of second-stage shelters illustrates the power of data to show the impact of our collective work. Data showed that 17% of women had been in stable housing when entering shelter while at the time they left shelter 55% were moving into stable housing.

### ***Reaching into communities to engage men and boys***

Our work to engage men and boys in being leaders for equality and respect continues to flourish as we build new relationships and cement old ones. A unique offering of the Leading Change program is the strong link to women's shelters and to women's experiences which ensures that all of our training is underpinned by a strong gendered-analysis. In 2017 Leading Change continued to increase the visibility of shelters by speaking about domestic violence at external events province-wide, contributed to the public debate about the Occupational Health and Safety Act; completed capacity-building train-the-trainers in numerous communities and piloted new curricula with the Edmonton Wildcats junior football team.

### ***Continued professionalization of the shelter sector***

Our training programs continue to support the sector in reaching new levels of professional services. The 2017 Ethics training allowed shelter staff from a range of roles to grapple with issues such as informed consent which are essential to empowerment of women, children and seniors. Shelter staff who received this – and other training – also actively contributed their own knowledge to the discussions held ensuring that we are sharing knowledge at an individual level as well as at a system level. In consultation with members and Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell we upgraded the Danger Assessment Curriculums developed in 2010 with associated training and did the same with the Children's Curriculum.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

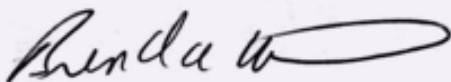
### ***Member services and supports***

Our advocacy work with government and other key influencers continued across a range of relevant areas on topics such as: the role of Children's Services; the role of shelters in providing a solution to women's homelessness; and, securing #LiftHerUp pledges from candidates in Alberta's municipal elections.


We also delivered training to the judiciary on the issue of custody and access to children. Across all these areas we maintained a focus on the excellent work being done by shelters and their critical role in providing a solution to problem of domestic violence and abuse. Staff laid the groundwork for the update to our Ethical/Moral Framework, which will help us to strengthen our values for collective action.

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters is getting stronger every year. Looking ahead, 2018/19 is a crucial period for us as we await to see the implications of the provincial budget upon ACWS and our members. We will be prioritising the issue of funding throughout the coming year as we continue to advocate for our members and the women, children and seniors they serve so effectively.

Yours sincerely,



Brenda Rebman  
ACWS President



Jan Reimer  
Executive Director

# COMMITTEE REPORTS





# BOARD GOVERNANCE REPORT

We began the fiscal year by adopting our new Values Statement and Board strategic directions, which we also had the opportunity to share with members at AGM 2017.

In the fall, members of the Board Governance Committee interviewed board delegates interested in serving on the ACWS Board to fill the Small Towns and Rural Board Delegate position, as Anthony Oliver was no longer eligible to sit on our board (due to a move, he was no longer serving on the Columbus House of Hope Board in St. Paul). Jeanette Sandstra from Mountain Rose Women's Shelter Society was appointed to fill this vacancy.

The Board regularly conducts a board check-up and this year's results demonstrated the board to be a highly effective board with only minor 'tune ups' needed to maintain high performance, with one area identified as needing further work; that being to clarify the board's role in fundraising. This is on the board governance committee's workplan for the upcoming year

The board also reviews our bylaws every three years, and we commenced a review which includes the potential of hosting an online AGM. Current bylaws (and the Societies Act) require that an AGM be held within six months of the fiscal year end. Given the difficulty of hosting a successful AGM during July and August, this essentially leaves mid-May (to allow time to complete the audited financial statements), June and September. These are busy months. Many shelters have their own AGM, host golf tournaments, coupled with June graduations, weddings, and National Aboriginal Awareness Day (June 21). Given that ACWS organized a Hill Day in Ottawa in June, this year's AGM is being held in September and we are looking forward to soliciting input from our members on the timing and approaches to our AGM and other member engagement possibilities. I would like to thank members of the Committee: Pamela Wicks, Lyla Allen, and Michele Taylor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Ann Fenney

## TREASURER'S REPORT

In the fiscal year 2017/18 the Finance, Audit and Risk Management (FARM) Committee continued to review the budget, interim and annual financial statements prepared by management. The Committee made recommendations to the board to continue moving ACWS in the direction of a sustainable fiscal outlook and mitigating any possible financial risks. To ensure risk mitigation measures are in place the Board approved some amendments to our existing Board Policies.

ACWS has continued making contributions to the Stabilization Fund to build the necessary reserves to meet our goal of ensuring there are four months basic operating needs in the fund at all times. We have also continued to contribute to the Moving/Renovation Reserve to ensure there are sufficient funds to address office space requirements in future years.

ACWS has also established a new reserve fund - the Social Enterprise Fund - to ensure program stabilization and expansion. This Fund enables more effective budget planning given that we are now two-thirds of the way through the three-year funding package received from the provincial government.

The Board also reviewed the auditing firm, Skolney & Company who have been working with ACWS for a number of years. This work has continued into the 2018/19 fiscal year. We are pleased to bring forth a recommendation based on that review, for the upcoming fiscal years, at the 2017/18 Annual General Meeting.

The 2017/18 annual financial statements were reviewed with our auditor, Skolney & Company at the FARM Committee meeting of May 4, 2018 and then presented by the committee to the ACWS Board on May 11, 2018. Highlights include:

- Donations exceeded the budgeted amount by \$26,479, foundation grants by \$33,606 and investment income by \$31,674
- Proceeds from raffles held on our behalf also exceed our expectations by \$11,884
- We have ended the year with an operational surplus of \$143,537. \$40,000 has been added to the Stabilization Reserve and \$5,000 to the Moving/Renovation Reserve. We received casino proceeds in this fiscal year, which will be spread over two years and appear on our balance sheet for 2018-19.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

- \$116,445 has been allocated to the Social Enterprise fund from revenue earned by way of the newly added programming made possible by the three-year funding received from government.
- Members continue to contribute to the shared member training fund for shelter workers. Contributions have totaled \$182,850 since the inception of this program.

Finally, I would like to express a special note of gratitude to my fellow FARM Committee members - Gaye Warthe, Sherrie Botten, Michele Taylor, for their tremendous work during the past fiscal year.

Yours sincerely,

Pamela Wick  
Board Treasurer

## UPDATE ON THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, VALUES AND COMMITMENT TO ACTIONS

1. Respect and acknowledge the traditional Indigenous territories and treaties that are at the foundation of the Province of Alberta.

2. Respect and honour the unique nation-to nation relationship that Indigenous peoples have with the Crown's federal government.

3. Implement the most immediate and pertinent Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Articles from the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples incorporating

a. An acknowledgement of the results of colonization on the Indigenous communities

b. Increased awareness of the systemic discrimination and marginalization of Indigenous women and girls in Canada.

c. Advocating for funding needs for Indigenous women in remote and isolated communities to meet the needs of safety, transportation, employment, housing, childcare, and basic needs

d. The development of strategic alliances with Indigenous Nations, community leadership, and community organizations to support the work of the First Nations shelters, the ACWS, and ACWS membership.

4. Work together when differences arise to identify them and find common ground.

5. Hear, acknowledge, and respect the voices of Indigenous women.

6. Always seek better ways to improve or enhance services.

7. Create sharing opportunities for shelter partnerships and exchanges to learn from each other.

8. Create opportunities for family members to share their support, knowledge, and wisdom for the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous women.

9. Celebrate our successes together.

10. We must act to end Racism and Discrimination against Indigenous women.

11. Take the time to review and renew these relationship Principles, Values, and Commitment to Actions on a regular basis.

This is the first year of implementing our commitment to provide an update on the "Statement of Principles, Values, and Commitment to Actions" in our annual report.

We started the year with a note from Grand Chief Wilton Littlechild in response to our request to review our treaty acknowledgement and incorporate Treaty 6 Territory into our ACWS address. This was one of the agreed upon actions to implement Action1. We received this lovely response:

"As the Grand Chief for Treaty No 6, I am impressed by your fulsome statement about Treaty 6 territory. Also your address including Treaty 6 territory is to be commended. While I refer to Cree in some official documents like the Customs declaration forms when I travel, I am now going to change my address too, to follow your courageous lead. Keep up the great work you do! Grand Chief."

All ACWS materials now incorporate Treaty 6 in our address and our major documents include our acknowledgements.

We also worked with consultant Lewis Cardinal to develop acknowledgments wherever a shelter is located along with a PowerPoint explaining why we do acknowledgements for all of our members to use. It is wonderful to now attend shelter events and hear these acknowledgments being used.

The Education and Training Committee has, as one its' foundational tenets, the incorporation of an Indigenous lens in all ACWS curriculum development and training, with an Indigenous Training Subcommittee formed to support this work. Five webinars have been completed for ongoing staff training on supporting Indigenous women in shelter, including

## UPDATE ON THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, VALUES AND COMMITMENT TO ACTIONS

1. Foundation of Indigenous Worldviews
  2. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women: In Equity and Action
  3. Spirit and Intent: First Nations Perspectives on Treaty
  4. Building Relations
  5. Indigenous Women in Indigenous Societies
- (the above are part of implementing Action 1, 2, 3,6,8 &10)*

At our June AGM, we featured a panel discussion on the (Next 150 Years), highlighting that all Canadians are Treaty people. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in the Blanket Exercise and a Water Ceremony on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River led by elders.

In September,2017 we met with the Ermineskin shelter board for their input and advice on the Statement of Principles and Values. In the previous year, we had received input and support from Sucker Creek and Bigstone Cree Nation in meetings arranged by the local shelter. Draft 8 encompasses all of the input we received. We thank them for their support of this initiative.

ACWS now has a practice of including Elders in our initiatives, meetings and consultations. An elder on our Safety from Domestic Violence Advisory Committee and elders are called upon to open and close our meetings in a good way (Actions 1, 2 & 3)

In recognition of the significant funding disparities that exist between on and off reserve shelters, on-reserve shelters were able to participate in all ACWS training with all their travel and participation expenses fully covered. Three on-reserve shelters were able to send staff to these trainings (Action 3d)

Dennis Callihoo, Brittany Johnson and Beryl Willier brought important voices to the board table (Action 9).

We were saddened to begin the new fiscal year with the knowledge that four of the five organizations on reserve decided to leave ACWS. We have been honoured to work with their staff, board members and elders over the years and are grateful for the friendship we have and the wisdom they shared that has helped us become a better organization. We understand and respect their desire to advocate and promote a collective on-reserve agenda at the federal level through Alberta First Nation Voices for On-Reserve Shelters Society. We too wish to continue our journey together in whatever form it ultimately takes in friendship, respect and peace.

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**  
**TOGETHER: THE IMPACT OF ACWS WORK**



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER: THE IMPACT OF ACWS WORK

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER – THE ROLE OF ACWS

Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) is a membership organisation with 37 members serving women, children and seniors across Alberta. Our work involves four strategic approaches: We work collectively; We change systems; We share knowledge; and We are changing the conversation.

The investment of \$2.4m in ACWS by Community and Social Services in 2016 has transformed our work, supporting an ambitious agenda to improve outcomes for women. The purpose of this document is to provide a high-level summary of our impact in our main programme areas: Professional Development training; Data Collection and Analysis; Violence Prevention, and our core operating activities. In just a short period we have:

- Built the evidence base which informed the provincial government's investment in second-stage shelters.
- Recorded a 28% increase in the number of women and children served through shelter outreach over the past two years.
- Reached 15,249 people through our Leading Change violence prevention program during 2016 and 2017.



A woman-centered approach is at the heart of the Inventory developed for the Safety from Domestic Violence project.

"Funding our shelter through grants was exhausting. Thanks to the support from, and advocacy by, ACWS for second-stage shelters we have moved from survival to program development. Now we are seeing positive outcomes for families."

- Natasha Carvalho, Executive Director  
Medicine Hat Women's Shelter.

### SHELTERS NOW SERVE MORE WOMEN, CHILDREN AND SENIORS THAN EVER BEFORE.

Province wide data shows the numbers served by shelters going up. The additional funding provided by the province for outreach services allowed shelters to significantly increase the numbers of women served in the community. Increased outreach efforts, combined with increased public awareness (#MeToo), drives demand for services and increases turn-away numbers. Thus, despite the government's positive investment in shelter programming, we still cannot yet cope with the scale of this problem in our society.

In the fiscal years 2016/17 and 2017/18 Alberta's shelters:

	2016/17 (women & children)	2017/18 (women & children)
# Accommodated	10,030	10,319
Outreach caseload	6,049	6,408
Total	16,079	16,727



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER: THE IMPACT OF ACWS WORK

### VIOLENCE PREVENTION

ACWS Leading Change program seeks to end violence through engagement in community, educational institutions and workplaces of all kinds. The program is informed by women's organisations and women's experience and seeks to achieve a transformation in the culture and practices of institutions, organisations and individuals. Leading Change tailors each training to the needs of particular organisations rooted in our two curricula, 'Gender-based Violence Prevention' and 'Domestic Violence and your Workplace.' Our partners include the Calgary Stampeders, the Canadian Military, the Alberta Construction Safety Association and the Edmonton Wildcats Football Club.

Since 2016, Leading Change has led 518 learning activities (meetings, presentations, training) influencing 15,249 individuals. Over two years 80-90% of participants in the 113 training sessions indicated improved knowledge about domestic violence and an increased ability to recognize signs of violence against women and girls in their life or workplace.



ACWS Leading Change staff and community partners in High River.

"I am more aware of my own actions and the actions of others. I now have the tools to help change the negative gender-based violence in my life and the lives of others."

- Leading Change training participant.

Leading the way to culture change

**75% of GBV prevention training recipients** were better able to prevent or interrupt abusive behaviours.

**80% of DV workplace training participants** knew what to do or were better able to respond to signs of domestic violence in the workplace.

- ACWS external evaluation results (2017/18)



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

### DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

Data analysis and support are at the core of the services ACWS provides to our membership. Our annual grant partially funds our work so members can use data to inform and improve practice. ACWS staff analyze trends and provide technical support. This ongoing, longitudinal action-based research initiative involves up to 42 distinct organisations making it one of the most established, reliable and complex social justice data-collection initiatives in the whole country.

Data collected includes information which informs safety planning and provides for women and children's needs for safe shelters. We also use data to assess the impact shelters are having in the lives of women and children.

#### Using data to establish impact.

**Upon entry:** 9% in stable housing

**When leaving:** 53% in stable housing

**At follow up:** 68% in stable housing

- Housing Stability in Second-Stage shelters  
(ACWS research)

"All staff need to be taught this information to truly create a safe space for kids escaping DV. The ACWS Children's Curriculum manual will be such an asset to teach staff how to work with children impacted by DV."

– Calgary shelter staff member

### TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A study by Prof. Thomas Barker from the University of Alberta on healthy workplaces indicated that shelter staff identified staying informed about best practices as crucial for workplace health. Healthy workplaces support improved outcomes for women through better staff retention and enriched work practices. Consequently, since 2016, ACWS has significantly upscaled our professional development program. For each training program ACWS develops resources, works with external experts, to develop and deliver a curriculum, offers web resources and provides ongoing support to shelters after the training event. The program is primarily for shelter staff but we have also invited other community organisations and staff from government bodies (eg. police services) to participate both in-person and online. We have increased capacity in areas including:

#### Intergenerational trauma & decolonisation

301 participants

#### Danger Assessment Tool

115 participants

#### Fentanyl Preparedness

33 participants

#### Shelter Ethics

381 participants

#### Vicarious Trauma & Self-Care

17 participants

#### Indigenous Knowledge

298 participants

#### Children & Brain Trauma

81 participants

#### Total number trained:

1,226

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER



### Collective Voice

**2,340 hours**  
of database support

**700+**  
**person-hours**  
in shelter director  
networking meetings

**241,370**  
unique page views  
to our website

**50% increase**  
in twitter followers

**52 DV survivors**  
contributing to the promising  
practices Inventory

**16 Indigenous**  
organisations consulted on MMIWG  
Inquiry

**18 shelters**  
contributing to submission  
to Child Intervention Panel



### Collective Action

**1,226** attended ACWS  
professional development training

**15,249 people**  
in 219 organisations reached  
through Leading Change training

**324 candidates**  
signed the #LiftHerUp pledge

**154 promising  
practices** identified

**6 research  
projects** published

**6 new training  
curricula** developed



### Collective Impact

**31,128 women  
and children**  
admitted to shelter program  
(2016/17 & 2017/18).

**7% improvement**  
in men's attitudes towards gender  
equity. (Leger/ACWS)

**2,200 women**  
served through our 1,800 phone-  
number (2016 – 18)

**Direct influence**  
on 11 policies, practices or laws at 3  
levels of government.

**\$15m secured**  
for funding of outreach & second-  
stage shelters.

# **AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



**ACWS**  
Alberta Council of  
Women's Shelters

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Skolney & Company

### Chartered Accountants

Glenn W. Skolney, B.Comm., CPA, CA (ext. 301)  
Judy Vansevenandt, B.Comm., CPA, CA (ext. 304)  
Frank Onyschuk, B.Comm. (ext. 303)  
Emmet Butland, CPA, CA (ext. 307)  
Wendy Tugwood, CPA, CA (ext. 317)  
Norma Rosette, CPA, 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, 2018 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 to 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, 2018 and March 31, 2017, and net assets for both the March 31, 2018 and 2017 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2018 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, 2018, 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.



Edmonton, Alberta  
May 4, 2018

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

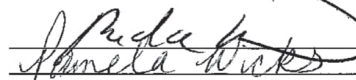
## ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 2 and 6)	2,917,464	1,892,324
Amounts receivable	66,716	42,649
GST receivable	6,368	14,808
Prepaid expenses	1,359	0
<u>Guaranteed investment certificates</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,426,600</u>
	2,991,907	3,376,381
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Notes 2 and 4)	33,722	25,453
	<u>3,025,629</u>	<u>3,401,834</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	21,763	25,273
<u>Deferred income on grants and other revenue (Note 3)</u>	<u>2,116,217</u>	<u>2,748,893</u>
	2,137,980	2,774,166
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	499,688	403,349
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS (Note 5)	354,239	198,866
<u>INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>33,722</u>	<u>25,453</u>
	887,649	627,668
	<u>3,025,629</u>	<u>3,401,834</u>

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

 Director  
Pamela Hicks Director

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

	<b>2018</b>				<b>2017</b>
	Investment in Property and Equipment \$	Internally Restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	Total \$	Total \$
BALANCE, beginning of year	25,453	198,866	403,349	627,668	411,353
Excess of (expenses over revenues) revenue over expenses	(17,803)	0	277,784	259,981	216,315
Transfer re: purchase of asset	26,072	0	(26,072)	0	0
Transfer for stabilization reserve		60,000	(60,000)		
Transfer of moving /reno		(26,072)	26,072		
Transfer of moving/reno		5,000	(5,000)		
Transfer for social enterprise reserve		116,445	(116,445)		
BALANCE, end of year	33,722	354,239	499,688	887,649	627,668

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Grants (Schedule 1)	1,280,732	1,170,421
Donations	169,385	143,481
Casino revenue	78,421	76,754
Membership fees	70,650	63,100
Interest and other income	62,652	129,374
Fundraising	60,860	74,895
Training and workshop fees	52,580	57,289
	<u>1,775,280</u>	<u>1,715,314</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Wages and employee benefits	863,559	740,269
Program expenses	457,627	577,186
Occupancy costs	45,683	40,638
Telephone and internet	28,412	8,816
Professional fees	28,007	42,797
Office and miscellaneous	22,535	14,751
Annual General Meeting	14,185	17,558
Minor equipment and repairs	14,109	339
Recruitment and training	11,311	5,416
Gifts and Honorariums	5,904	42,860
Bank charges and interest	4,099	3,230
Insurance	2,065	2,195
Amortization	17,803	2,944
	<u>1,515,299</u>	<u>1,498,999</u>
<b>REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>259,981</u>	<u>216,315</u>

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	259,981	216,315
Items not affecting cash-		
Amortization of property and equipment	17,803	2,944
Change in non-cash working capital items -		
(Increase) in amounts receivable	(24,067)	(42,649)
(Increase) Decrease in GST receivable	8,440	(7,589)
Decrease in prepaid expenses	(1,359)	-
(Decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(3,510)	(4,313)
(Decrease) Increase in deferred grants and other revenue	(632,676)	(487,002)
	<u>(375,388)</u>	<u>(322,294)</u>
<b>FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Investment in property and equipment	(26,072)	(23,654)
	<u>(26,072)</u>	<u>(23,654)</u>
(DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH	(401,460)	(345,948)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	3,318,924	3,664,872
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	<u>2,917,464</u>	<u>3,318,924</u>
Cash is comprised of:		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,917,464	1,892,324
Guaranteed investment certificate	0	1,426,600
	<u>2,917,464</u>	<u>3,318,924</u>



# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

**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. ACWS 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>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Cash - Bank	\$ 2,848,476	\$ 1,828,495
Cash - casino account	68,988	57,092
Savings account	<u>0</u>	<u>6,737</u>
	<u>\$ 2,917,464</u>	<u>\$ 1,892,324</u>

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

**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 and Leasehold Improvements –**

Equipment and leasehold improvements are carried at cost less accumulated amortization. Board Policy states that individual asset items that are less than \$2,000 or are greater than \$2,000 with a life expectancy of less than one year are considered expenses. Items that are over \$2,000 and a life expectancy of more than one year are considered capital assets. ACWS 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%
Leasehold Improvement	20%

**(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.

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

**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. DEFERRED INCOME ON GRANTS AND OTHER REVENUE**

In 2016-2017, ACWS updated its accounting processes as well as its chart of accounts to better describe their activities and reflect their mission statement.

The organization 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 collection is reasonably assured.

The following provides an overview of the Departmental Income from the new chart of accounts.

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

**3. DEFERRED INCOME ON GRANTS AND OTHER REVENUE (continued)**

**Administration**

**A. HRJ Consulting**

In the previous year, HRJ Consulting provided a grant in the amount of \$17,278 to support the purchase of new computers and audio-visual equipment for ACWS operations as well as webcams and headsets for ACWS members. Prior year balance of \$13,252 was expended during the year leaving a balance of 0 at March 31, 2018.

**Member Support - Training**

**B. HS - Training**

At the end of 2015-2016, the ACWS received \$551,004 from the Government of Alberta as a lump sum grant as a three-year project to support consistent and sustainable shelter practices across the province. Deferred revenue of \$551,004 was allocated to new account Education and Training, with an unexpended balance of \$489,027 at March 31, 2017. In 2017-18 \$135,494 was expended, leaving a balance of \$353,533 at March 31, 2018.

**C. Training - IODE**

In the previous year, ACWS received \$20,000 from IODE to help shelter workers to expand their knowledge on family violence and children exposed to domestic violence through the Second-stage project. During the year \$5,970 was expended on the project leaving a nil balance at March 31, 2018.

**D. Training Undesignated**

The unexpended balance of prior year of \$10,532 from Alberta Children's Services to account Training Undesignated. During the year, \$10,532 were expended leaving a balance of \$0 at March 31, 2018.

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

**3. DEFERRED INCOME ON GRANTS AND OTHER REVENUE (continued)**

**E. Member Contribution Fund**

In 2016-2017 ACWS members contributed a total of \$150,350 towards the development and implementation of a Sustainable Training Model and Plan for members' staff across the province with \$24,245 expended in 2017/18 leaving a balance of \$126,105 at March 31, 2017. In the last fiscal year, \$32,500 additional dollars were contributed and \$15,872 expended leaving an unexpended balance of \$142,733.

**Member Support – Data**

**F. Measuring Impact**

At the end of 2015-2016, ACWS received \$402,018 from the Government of Alberta as a lump sum grant for a three-year project to identify, define and support shelter collection of appropriate data for contract monitoring and accountability. Deferred revenue of \$402,018 was allocated to new account Measuring Impact with an unexpended balance of \$319,862 at March 31, 2017. In 2017-18, \$98,784 dollars were expended leaving a balance at March 31, 2018 of \$221,708.

**Member Support – Inclusion**

**G. Support (HS)-Aboriginal**

In 2015, the Minister of Human Services and ACWS entered into a Family and Community Safety Program Grant Funding Agreement totaling \$333,334 for two years to develop a plan to address violence against Aboriginal women in partnership with on-reserve members and other stakeholders. During 2015-2016, \$23,185 was expended leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2016 of \$310,149 which was allocated to this new account. During 2016-2017, \$100,288 was expended leaving a balance of \$209,861 at March 31, 2017. In 2017-2018, ACWS received a project extension as well as addition funds of \$83,334, for a total grant of \$416,668. During the year \$67,323 dollars were expended leaving a balance of \$225,872 at March 31, 2018.

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

**3. DEFERRED INCOME ON GRANTS AND OTHER REVENUE (continued)**

**Member Support – Policy Development**

**H. Policy Development - Status of Women**

The unexpended balance from 2015-2016 of \$86,400 from Status of Women Canada for the project, Safety from domestic violence: Using evidence-based practices to keep women safe was allocated to this new account. During the year, ACWS received an additional \$100,000 for the project. Total expenses during the year were \$98,600 leaving and unexpended balance of \$97,710 at March 31, 2017. In 2018, ACWS received \$50,276 dollars as well as a project extension, spent \$46,373 with \$101,613 unexpended dollars remaining at March 31, 2018.

**I. Policy Development – JSG –Safety from Domestic Violence**

At the start of the 2018 year, there was an unexpended balance from Alberta Justice and Solicitor General of \$5,853. During the year ACWS received an additional \$44,532 for the project. Total expenses during the year were \$50,385 leaving an unexpended balance of \$0 at March 31, 2018.

**Mobilize Support to End Domestic Violence – DV and the Workplace**

**J. Domestic Violence and the Workplace (CSS)**

At the end of 2015-2016, ACWS received \$639,530 from the Government of Alberta as a lump sum grant for a three-year project. Deferred revenue of \$639,530 was allocated to new account Leading Change in Alberta Workplaces, with an unexpended balance of \$514,746 at March 31, 2017. In 2017-2018, \$145,783 dollars were expended with \$368,963 unexpended dollars remaining at March 31, 2018.



# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

**3. DEFERRED INCOME ON GRANTS AND OTHER INCOME (continued)**

**K. Leading Change: Engaging Men & Boys (CSS)**

At the end of 2015-2016, ACWS received \$840,498 from the Government of Alberta as a lump sum grant for a three-year project. Deferred revenue of \$840,498 was allocated to new account Engaging Men and Boys, with an unexpended balance of \$656,640 at March 31, 2017. In 2017-18, \$261,439 dollars were spent leaving \$395,201 dollars unexpended at March 31, 2018.

**L. Engaging Men and Boys – Edmonton Police Foundation**

In 2016-2017 ACWS received \$26,000 from the Edmonton Police Foundation to support evaluation of the School Resource Officers Leading Change Initiative. \$3,822 was expended in 2016-2017 leaving an unexpended balance of \$22,178 at March 31, 2017 which was allocated to a new account Engaging Men and Boys - Edmonton Police Foundation (previously known as SRO Leading Change Project Evaluation). During the year, \$0 dollars were expended leaving a balance of \$22,178 at March 31, 2018.

**M. Engaging Men and Boys Undesignated**

In 2015, ACWS 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. There was an unexpended balance from prior year of \$64,046. During the year, \$55,104 was expended leaving an unexpended balance of \$8,942 at March 31, 2018.

**Mobilize Support to End Domestic Violence – Public Awareness**

**N. Public Awareness - Undesignated**

\$195,164 from the Family Business Connect initiative was allocated to new account Public Awareness-Undesignated in 2016-17. These dollars are designed to raise public awareness of domestic violence generally as well as its impact upon the workplace, the family and the community. The unexpended balance at the beginning of the year was \$195,164. In 2017-18, ACWS received a grant from Status of Women Alberta for \$10,000 towards the LiftHerUp campaign. A total of \$17,353 were spent, with \$188,693 remaining at March 31, 2018.

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

**3. DEFERRED INCOME ON GRANTS AND OTHER INCOME (continued)**

**O. Public Awareness - History Project**

ACWS received \$4,592 from the Canada Summer Jobs grant to hire a student to support the writing and media development process, all of which was expended during the year. \$7,454 was received and totally expended from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation to support both the completion of a book and provide recorded content for the History Project's Multimedia Phase. \$9,540 was received from the Edmonton Heritage Council to develop a podcast series and social media campaign. A total of \$14,932 was been expended in the 2017-2018 year leaving a balance of \$7,154 at March 31, 2018.

**Other Income**

P. ACWS received \$70,050 in membership fees for the 2018-2019 year

Q. ACWS received \$10,209 in revenue for training activities for the 2018-2019 year



# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

#### 4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	2018		2017	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Office equipment	\$ 59,421	\$ 50,731	\$ 8,690	\$ 14,162
Computer equipment	31,204	27,031	4,173	11,291
Leasehold improvement	26,072	5,213	20,859	0
	<b>\$116,697</b>	<b>\$ 82,975</b>	<b>\$ 33,722</b>	<b>\$ 25,453</b>

#### 5. INTERNAL RESTRICTIONS

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

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
(a) Stabilization reserve ACWS has established a stabilization reserve to hold three months of operating expenses.	182,000	122,000
(b) World Conference Legacy fund ACWS 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	30,794
(c) Equipment reserve ACWS has established a reserve for future capital equipment purchases.	20,000	20,000
(d) Moving/Renovation reserve ACWS has established a reserve for moving/renovation expenditures.	5,000	26,072
(e) Social Enterprise fund ACWS has established a fund to ensure program stabilization and expansion	116,445	0
	<b>354,239</b>	<b>198,866</b>

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018**

**6. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

Funds gained from a Casino event are placed in a separate bank account. These funds, which total \$68,988 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 including improvements as well as development of the organization's website and volunteer conference/trainings.

**7. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

ACWS is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis presents ACWS's exposures to significant risk at the reporting date, March 31, 2018.

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**

ACWS rents premises under an operating lease effective June 1, 2017, expiring May 31, 2022. There is an option to renew at the end of the lease for a further 5-year term. The annual base rent in year 1 is \$19,162; years 2-3: \$22,356; Years 4-5: \$25,550.

**9. COMPARATIVE FIGURES**

Certain 2017 figures have been reclassified to conform with the presentation adopted in the current year.

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## SCHEDULE 1

### ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS GRANT SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Operations</b>		
Operations/Council	242,959	354,404
HRJ Consulting	15,108	4,026
<b>Member Support – Training</b>		
Training (CSS)	135,494	61,977
Training – IODE	5,970	14,030
Training – Undesignated	10,532	820
Member Contribution Fund	15,872	24,245
<b>Member Support-Research</b>		
Research – Calgary Foundation – Second-Stage Project	0	26,238
Research – Policy Wise – Second-Stage Project	0	16,500
<b>Member Support – Data</b>		
Measuring Impact	98,784	81,156
Data – Annual (CSS)	91,500	
<b>Member Support – Inclusion</b>		
Support (CSS) – Aboriginal	67,324	100,288
<b>Member Support – Policy Development</b>		
Safety from Domestic Violence – Status of Women Canada	46,372	98,690
Safety from Domestic Violence – Alberta Justice	50,385	82,880
<b>Mobilize Support to End Domestic Violence – DV and the Workplace</b>		
Domestic Violence and the Workplace (CSS)	145,783	124,784
<b>Mobilize Support to End Domestic Violence – Engaging Men and Boys</b>		
Leading Change - Engaging Men and Boys (CSS)	261,439	155,255
Engaging Men and Boys – Edmonton Police Foundation	0	1,848
Engaging Men and Boys – Undesignated	55,104	1,770
Engaging Man and Boys – Stampede Kinsmen	0	13,860
<b>Mobilize Support to End Domestic Violence – Public Awareness</b>		
Public Awareness – National Victims and Survivors of Crime Week	7,500	7,650
Public Awareness - History project	14,432	0
Public Awareness – Undesignated	16,174	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,280,732</b>	<b>1,170,421</b>

## IN MEMORIUM

### ***ACWS has lost some dear friends and supporters in the past year***

Natasha Justinen served as our contract specialist from ACSS for many years. She was a wonderful supporter of the women's shelter movement and a dear friend of ACWS.

Heather MacAngus was a member of the Gifts of Hope Gala Committee who embodied the ways our individual actions can have a positive impact on society. She gave freely and tirelessly of her time to support our work.

*May they see the reflection of their life's kindness and  
beauty in all the tears that fall for them.*

– John O'Donohue

Thank You to our financial supporters!

The work of ACWS is sustained by generous gifts from individuals, government and foundations. We are so grateful to everyone who supports us in donations large and small.

