

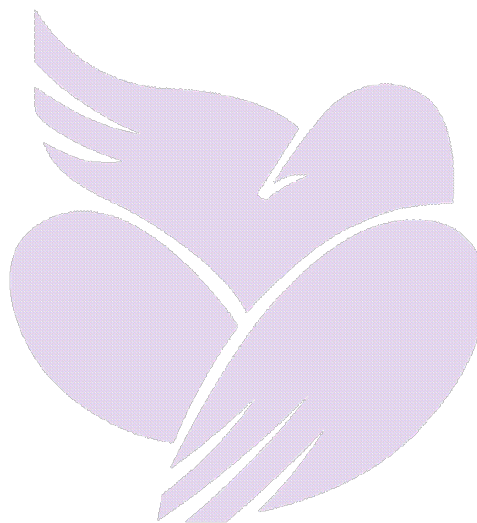
About ACWS

ACWS Vision

We believe in a world free from violence and abuse.

ACWS Mission

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters is a province-wide, voluntary organization supporting women's shelters and their partners through education, research and services for the benefit of abused women and their children.



ACWS Board

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

2011 - 2012 ACWS Office

Jan Reimer, Provincial Co-ordinator
Carolyn Goard, Director of Member Programs and Services
Charleen Shaw, Office Administrator
Ken Seto, Finance and Information Management
Christie Lavan, Communications and Partnerships Advisor
(mat leave Jan. 2011 - Jan. 2012)
Dorothy Sam, Project Manager, Walking the Path Together
John Ratcliff, Program Director for Domestic Violence
and the Workplace
Agnieszka Wyka, Communications and Partnership Advisor
(mat leave replacement: Jan. 2011 - Aug. 2011)
Jennifer Ness, Administrative Assistant Projects
Joy Medori, Research and Outcome Measurement Specialist
(mat leave starting Feb. 2012)
Amy Gendron, Evaluation and Research Specialist

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We believe in a world free from violence and abuse.

67 seven-year-olds, their 129 siblings and 104 adults have been helped by the Walking the Path Together project in this past fiscal year.

independence
Culture
Leverage Diversity
equality
Community



Walking the Path Together Eagle Feather Workers, Shelter Directors and project staff completed many training sessions during this fiscal year:

- Outcome Tracker (many one-on-one sessions)
- Team Building
- Communications
- Lateral Violence
- Sustaining the Empowerment of Women
- Motivational Interviewing
- Interventions

1. Leadership Messages

ACWS President: Barbara Young

The Past Year

Strategic Plan

Review by the Board of the ACWS Strategic Plan resulted in not only reaffirmation of the role of ACWS in provision of Shelter Services in Alberta, but also for increasing focus on initiatives related to Public Awareness. It is through Public Awareness that we hope to move toward our vision of a World Free from Violence and Abuse. The dual focus on Shelter Services and Public Awareness can be seen in many of the initiatives undertaken by ACWS during the past year.

The Second World Conference

This year we saw the great work of ACWS in initiating the first ever World Conference of Women's Shelters carried forward and continued through the second conference, held in Washington, DC at the end of February, beginning of March of this year. Many of our members were able to attend, papers were presented by ACWS members and staff on work done in Alberta and a reception was held for those who had been at the meeting in Edmonton. A session is being held this month to share what we learned with those who could not be present.

We look forward to this event continuing into the future and to the opportunity it gives our shelters to learn from, and share their experience with, colleagues from around the globe. We also are thrilled by how much support this event gives to those who work, many in isolation, in areas where violence against women and children is often the result of war and corrupt government. They are extremely thankful to have the moral support and encouragement that we provide.

Breakfast with the Guys

Extremely successful events were held in both Edmonton and Calgary this past winter. While the Edmonton event has always had a large participation this year the Calgary event experienced unprecedented growth, in large part thanks to the participation of the Premier, Allison Redford. Data released at this event relative to male attitudes with respect to family violence was a shock to all and was featured in newspapers across the country. The impact of this study in raising awareness of the issues we face in the fight against violence in our communities was phenomenal.

On-Reserve Shelter Funding

While we did not see the increase in funding for on-reserve shelters that we would have liked, we were able to gain assistance from those supporters who had the necessary voice to influence the federal government not to cut shelter budgets in spite of huge budget cuts in other areas. We have not given up on our quest for better funding but appreciate the fact that we did not move backward.

Walking the Path Together

This continues to be a successful initiative strongly supported by the Board and the On-Reserve Shelter Committee. We are currently pursuing funding to hopefully make it sustainable in the long term. Provision of mentorship to seven year-old children on reserve not only helps change their lives but also the lives of their families.

Data Base Implementation

The implementation of the Outcome Tracker software and the related training for shelter staff has been a huge initiative for ACWS in the last year. The success of this implementation is a tribute to the hard work of both ACWS and Shelter staff. As a consequence of this implementation we are able to continue to generate the statistics that are so critical to our public awareness initiatives and to meet the reporting requirements of our funders. Trend analysis resulting from this data and the review of that data by focus groups has been a leading edge initiative which not only informs shelter practice but also provides a tool for increasing public awareness.

Relationships with Government

Among our many funders the role of the Alberta Government Human Services Department is often the one which impacts Alberta off-reserve shelters the most. We are pleased that the staff of this organization is working with us to understand our needs through ongoing dialog and attendance at Shelter Directors' meetings. We look forward to continuing this cooperative approach not only with them but with all our funders and partnering agencies.

Looking Forward

After major changes to the ACWS structure ten years ago, the Board of ACWS decided that it was time to get input from our members and ensure that we were meeting their needs and the needs of the community. As a result, the Board of ACWS undertook a major Organizational Review. Consultants were contracted, questions formulated and a process established to gain input from all member representatives, both Shelter Directors and Voting Designates. The consultants spoke to 33 Board Representatives, 42 Shelter Directors and 3 Senior ACWS staff. The results of these discussions and the recommendations of the consultants will be presented at the membership meeting following the AGM.

Feedback from those interviewed was very supportive of initiatives undertaken by ACWS. As we had hoped, there were also recommendations about how things could be made even better. It will be our challenge over the coming year to solidify the great things that are being accomplished by ACWS and making changes to make them even better.

Barbara Young
President, ACWS
June 4, 2012

Provincial Co-ordinator: Jan Reimer

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) was conceived with the knowledge that shelters are stronger together and our strength can be leveraged to create a world free from violence and abuse. This year has been one of partnership: through projects with our members, with shelters across Canada and around the world, with government and the broader community.

Three of our collaborative projects with members focus on meeting the needs to children: Walking the Path Together¹ (with five on-reserve shelters, the London Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System and Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell), the Children's Project² (with 12 participating shelters and Dr. Dawn Clarke of Mount Royal College) and Helping Hands (with a psychologist from Edmonton's Family Centre and area shelters³). The impact of these projects on the lives of children impacted by violence has already been substantial, and we look forward to the valuable shelter resources that will be created.

Supported by our Domestic Violence & Your Workplace resources, our Family Business Connect initiative (an awareness and education project in partnership with the Mayor of Edmonton, businesses and Edmonton shelters), is gaining momentum; and a special partnership with some of our Calgary members and HOMEFRONT is leveraging the ACWS Toolkit resources to forge new corporate partnerships and strengthen existing relationships. Over the past year, staff have made approximately 44 presentations to businesses and organizations throughout Alberta, training hundreds of people who now know how to reach out to a co-worker in need.

ACWS has played the role of fiscal agent as we work with our sister provincial, territorial and aboriginal transition home/shelter organizations across the country, further leveraging collective knowledge through the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses. We are particularly excited about the WOWs⁴ project: the first national research project on shelter practices and our role in developing the shelter programme module for UN Women's virtual knowledge centre.

¹ Bigstone Cree Women's Emergency Shelter, Paspew House, Sucker Creek Emergency Women's Shelter, Eagle's Nest Stoney Family Shelter and Ermineskin Women's Shelter

² Kanai Children Services Corporation, Fort McMurray Family Crisis Society, Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association, Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter Society, Edmonton Women's Shelter Ltd., Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society, Eagle's Nest Stoney Family Shelter, Region 3 Family Based Care Society, YWCA Lethbridge and District, Wings of Providence Society, Brenda Strafford Centre for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

³ A Safe Place, LaSalle, Lurana Shelter, and WINGS

⁴ Ways of Working in Shelters

The Global Network of Women's Shelters kept the momentum of the first world conference going with the 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters held in February of 2012. ACWS is proud of the role we have played in both initiating the 1st World Conference, and how we have administered the annual Global and Alberta Shelter Data Counts to raise public awareness of the good work women's shelters do.

Our emerging partnerships with the White Ribbon Campaign and Brenda Strafford Chair for the Elimination of Domestic Violence at the University of Calgary are helping shape our prevention programming for men and boys. Our survey on men's attitudes towards violence against women, crafted with input from White Ribbon, received national attention.

Members of ACWS leverage their connection to their provincial network by taking advantage of the many shelter supports we offer. The IODE scholarship and ACYS Leadership Bursary continue to offer funds for shelter staff to undertake professional development activities. The Shelter Emergency Fund allows the reimbursement of those unexpected costs related to keeping our aging shelters operational. The Making Amends project covers expenses unique to helping women and their children in rural areas of the province.

A woman from a shelter in Grande Cache said on the Alberta Data Count Day, of her experience in the shelter: "With their guidance and knowledge I was able, within a few days, to think more clearly and perform the beginning task of preparing to live outside my abusive relationship." This is what shelters do every day for thousands of women.

ACWS is proud to have member shelters as our most important partners and to be able to leverage the expert frontline wisdom that shelters have, for the benefit of abused women, their children and seniors.

I would also like to thank our partners in government, particularly staff with Family Violence Prevention, Alberta Human Services and Status of Women Canada for their ongoing financial support and their commitment to addressing the needs of women's shelters in Alberta.

All of our accomplishments are made possible due to the efforts of highly committed and dedicated professionals on the ACWS team. I would like to thank our Board members as well as Carolyn Goard, Ken Seto, Dorothy Sam, Christie Lavan, Jennifer Ness, Charleen Shaw, John Ratcliff, Amy Gendron and Joy Medori for the role they have played in our work to end family violence.

Jan Reimer

Provincial Co-ordinator, ACWS

Overall, ACWS was supported by volunteers who collectively contributed approximately **3999 hours** of their time.

Perserverance
Justice
Children
Collective
Awareness
Freedom
Women



2011 - 2012

2. Committee Reports

Board Governance Committee

The governance committee has had a productive year, and as chair I would like to thank Lois Day, Pat Vargas, Janene Moch, Barbara Young, Jan Reimer, Carolyn Goard and our newest member Solomon Yellowknee who joined the committee in late 2011. Without the active participation and constructive work done by members of the committee, it would be a lot harder to accomplish its goals.

Board Orientation

We assisted in putting together an orientation for the Board for its meeting in September 2010. This helps both new and returning Board members to understand the role of the Board in the structure of ACWS and acts as a reminder of their individual responsibilities as Board members.

Strategic Planning

Early in the year after the Board had a very worthwhile strategic planning session, the Governance committee reworked and updated the Strategic plan for 2011-2014. The updated strategic plan was discussed by the Board in November 2011 and was finally approved after some further changes in February 2012.

Board self-assessment

The governance committee researched a number of approaches to having the Board assess its own performance. Research has shown time and time again that this is an effective way for a Board to determine its strengths and weaknesses and identify what it needs to do better. In February it recommended to the Board that it undertake a free on line board self-assessment survey prepared jointly by the University of Victoria, Canada and the University at Albany, SUNY, USA. The results of the survey were presented to the Board at its May meeting. The overall rating for the Board based on the survey results put it in the second highest category used by the researchers, which they describe as a moderately effective Board.

Policy Development & Updating

During the course of the year the committee has drafted a number of revisions to the board policy manual and submitted them to the Board for approval. These include:

- The travel policy
- Health benefits
- The grievance process.

Preparation for elections to the Board at the AGM

At the time of writing this report, requests for nominations for the election of half the Board members have gone out to the membership. 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

Chair, Board Governance Committee

On-Reserve Shelter Committee

The 2011/12 year has been very busy for the On Reserve Shelter Committee.

Once more On Reserve Shelters were faced with proposed funding reductions by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, however, as a collective, we banded together and met with AANDC who promised stable funding until the 2012/13 budget year. From that point on, AANDC would not commit to stable or increased funding. The committee has worked hard to increase public awareness through Media Releases during the spring of 2012 and forwarded a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper asking for him to address the issues of Family Violence On Reserves through increased funding to shelters. Although a few local politicians have expressed their sympathies for our plight, we are yet to see any results from these efforts to gain parity and equality for Aboriginal women and children but are hopeful that politicians on all levels will show desire to change the status quo that contributes to the continued oppression of women and children.

On a positive note, Alberta Human Services announced in the spring of 2012 that those members with Fee for Service Agreements would see an increase in the per diem rates on their contracts for the 2012/2013 fiscal year. We are thankful for the increase; however our shelters still face huge struggles, with funding disparities being one of our biggest hurdles we face in addressing family violence in our respective communities.

We've provided feedback and guidance on key projects for ACWS throughout the year. The Children's Project saw members of On Reserve Shelters sit as advisors for the project working with Aboriginal children aged 18 months – 5 years, and their moms. We've also provided feedback on the results of the Trend Analysis, in respect to Aboriginal Families staying in shelter. Both these projects are important to the continuation of increasing services in shelters for Aboriginal families. The children's project provided 12 shelters with cultural awareness training for working with Aboriginal families, and the Trend Analysis highlighted the predominance of domestic violence in Aboriginal communities and the desperate need for Governments to address our funding disparity.

On a very positive note, the Walking the Path Together Project has continued to be a huge success for 5 of the On Reserve Shelters, and we were advised in March that ACWS would receive 1 year of Bridging Funding from Alberta Human Services in order to continue the project, with hope of it becoming a "Program" at the end of the year. As the end of the original 2.5 years of the Pilot came to a close, our Eagle Feather Workers worked to ensure the families they had worked so hard to build relationships with had sufficient resources during the "transition" period. We are very proud of the Walking the Path Together Project and can see differences in each family the project worked with.

After much discussion, the Shelter Directors formed the Aboriginal Task Force, which includes a diverse set of Directors who are tasked with addressing the high number

of Aboriginal women and children staying in shelters across Alberta through education and awareness. Among the Directors on this important Task Force are two members of the On Reserve Shelter committee.

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.

Quote from Data Count day 2011: "I'm thankful for the shelter, because my children and I have nowhere else to go", Mom staying at shelter with her 5 children.

Nora-Lee Rear

Chair, On-Reserve Shelter Directors Committee

Shelter Programs & Education Committee (SPEC)

The year began with a face-to-face meeting in Calgary to review and revise the Terms of Reference and Workplan.

Strengthening Relationships with our Police Forces

Representatives from the SPEC Committee along with Jan Reimer, attended meetings and provided input to the development of a working agreement between shelters and police across the province.

Women's Shelter Leadership Bursary Program:

Seven individual bursaries were awarded to ACWS members for a total of \$12,549. Plans are well underway to partner with Banff Centre to offer a group leadership training on Establishing Effective Aboriginal Relationships for Alberta shelter leaders.

Literacy Alberta

A two year pilot project with Literacy Alberta will provide training, resources and professional development opportunities for Alberta shelters to assess and develop practices and resources regarding literacy.

I would like to acknowledge the participation and contribution of the SPEC committee; Pat Garrett, Joy Johnson-Green, Marj Luger, Kathleen Nakagawa, Josie Nepaniuk, Mary Ellen Proctor. Brenda Rebman, Pat Vargas.

Karen Pease

Chair, Shelter Programs and Education Committee (SPEC)

Social and Legal Issues and Ethics Committee (SLEC)

The role of the Social, Legal and Ethics Committee (SLEC) is to advise ACWS management about questions on public policy, research and other information about social, legal and ethical issues related to violence against women and children.

We had a productive year that included welcoming several new members: Noreen Cotton, Leslie McRae and Deb Miller. My continued gratitude is also extended to Sister Joanne McCaulay, Kelly Ernst and staff member Carolyn Goard for their continued support and involvement in the committee's work.

Our three key initiatives this past year reflected the need to update and consolidate documents with the goal of greater efficiency and synergies:

1. SLEC Terms of Reference

We reviewed and updated the committee's Terms of Reference to ensure that its content is both clear and current. The revised Terms of Reference were brought for to the Board of Directors, and approval is pending.

2. Consolidation of the "Outcome Tracker Database" and "Information Sharing" Agreements.

We're in the throes of developing a new Information and data sharing agreement between ACWS and Member organizations drawing heavily from existing agreements of a similar nature. The consolidated agreement, entitled the "Information and Data Sharing Agreement" strives to set high level goals for sharing information regardless of whether a shelter is using the Outcome Tracker. In so doing, we're ensuring full process and consideration from all member organizations. We've reviewed the first draft, and will bring forth the document to the membership this June.

3. Evaluation Plan Framework for the Children's Project

The Children's Project intends to support the development, integration and evaluation of promising child support practices in shelters across Alberta. Over the winter months we reviewed the project's Evaluation Plan framework and put forth a recommendation to the ACWS Board to approve the plan. It's now in place.

It's been my pleasure to serve on the committee for the past year and I look forward to continuing to do so for another term.

Brigitte Baradoy

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

In early March, 2012, the **Alberta Men's Attitudes about Violence against Women** survey was released. This survey is **the first of its kind in Canada** and received nation-wide attention.



Learn Journey Educate
Grow Knowledge Future
Guide

2011 - 2012



20 IODE bursaries were approved in the amount of **\$5,500.**

Perserverance
Liberate **Shelter** Growth
Love Embrace
Independance

7 leadership bursaries were approved in the amount of **\$12,549.**

111 shelter staff and their community partners were trained to perform **Danger Assessments.**

3. Financial Statements

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF
WOMEN'S SHELTERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012**

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)
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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, 2012 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flow for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Council derives revenue from donations from the general public, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Council and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation revenues, operations, assets and net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of the donations referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2012 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MARCH 31, 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2 and 6)	1,027,710	1,770,847
Grant receivable	164,311	142,126
Prepaid	7,000	-
GST receivable	26,143	18,860
	1,225,164	1,931,833
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Notes 2 and 4)	11,336	14,430
	1,236,500	1,946,263
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	96,635	73,946
Unexpended grants (Note 3)	713,463	1,382,996
Deferred contributions related to operations	4,219	13,546
	814,317	1,470,488
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	293,971	302,895
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS (Note 5)	116,876	158,450
INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT	11,336	14,430
	422,183	475,775
	1,236,500	1,946,263

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

_____ Director

_____ Director

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	2012			2011	
	Investment in Property and Equipment \$	Internally Restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	Total \$	Total \$
BALANCE, beginning of year	14,430	158,450	302,895	475,775	464,374
Excess of revenue over expenses	-	-	(12,018)	(12,018)	11,401
Transfers to (from) reserves (Note 5)	-	(41,574)	-	(41,574)	-
Investment in property and equipment	(3,094)	-	3,094	-	-
BALANCE, end of year	11,336	116,876	293,971	422,183	475,775

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
REVENUES		
Grants (Schedule 1)	2,276,540	1,667,828
Government of Alberta	250,000	250,000
Donations	135,120	142,678
Fundraising	116,515	42,415
Status of Women Canada	60,000	70,000
Membership fees	29,850	29,541
Interest and other income	11,454	54,888
Registration and workshop fees	7,426	22,791
Casino revenue	-	71,903
	<u>2,886,905</u>	<u>2,352,044</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Program expenses	1,316,585	942,142
Wages and employee benefits	1,281,042	1,108,908
Office and miscellaneous	107,048	80,140
Occupancy costs	83,133	72,750
Recruitment and training	36,073	62,612
Shelter Emergency Distributions	24,758	20,884
Annual General Meeting	17,386	13,393
Telephone	15,330	12,632
Professional fees	4,602	4,782
Newsletter and brochures	3,375	2,852
Insurance	3,336	3,062
Repairs and maintenance	3,161	12,490
Amortization	3,094	3,996
	<u>2,898,923</u>	<u>2,340,643</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>(12,018)</u>	<u>11,401</u>

Expenses of \$13,039 is 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, 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of expenses over revenues for the year	(12,018)	11,401
Items not affecting cash-		
Amortization of property and equipment	3,094	3,996
Change in non-cash working capital items -		
(Increase) in Grants and GST receivable	(29,468)	(137,701)
(Decrease) Increase in deferred contributions	(9,327)	7,199
(Decrease) Increase in unexpended grants	(669,533)	559,903
Increase in prepaid expenses	(7,000)	-
Increase in accounts payable	22,689	67,052
	<u>(701,563)</u>	<u>511,850</u>
FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Transfer from reserves	(41,574)	-
	<u>(41,574)</u>	<u>-</u>
INCREASE IN CASH	(743,137)	511,850
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	1,770,847	1,258,997
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	<u>1,027,710</u>	<u>1,770,847</u>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012**

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.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles applying the following significant accounting policies:

(A) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents is comprised of the following:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Cash (overdraft)	\$ 12,756	\$ 122,832
Cash – casino account	60,898	101,489
Savings account	<u>954,056</u>	<u>1,546,526</u>
	<u>\$ 1,027,710</u>	<u>\$ 1,770,847</u>

(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.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(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 generally accepted accounting principles requires 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, 2012

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. No amounts were expended during the year leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2012 of \$ 7,735.

B. Taking a Stand – Alberta Justice

During the 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. During the year, \$53,757 was expended leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2012 of \$96,243.

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 \$234,892. During the year, \$37,544 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at year end of \$197,348.

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 \$65,533. During the year, the Council received \$50,000 and expended \$82,232 on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2012 of \$33,301.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

E. Family Business Connect

During the year, the Council received \$110,000 from various businesses. The Family-Business Connect is part of a violence reduction plan announced by Edmonton 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. During the year, \$4,591 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2012 of \$105,409.

F. Practical Frameworks for Change

In a prior year, the Council received \$119,946 to increase women's capacity to establish violence free lives through strengthening Emergency Shelter intervention in ten Alberta shelters in the areas of safety, health and cultural sensitivity. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$15,700. During the year, \$15,700 was expended leaving an unexpended balance of \$0 at March 31, 2012.

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 \$6,646. During the year, the Council received \$20,000 and \$5,500 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$21,146 at March 31, 2012.

H. Walking The Path Together – NCPC

During the year, the Council received \$479,992 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, \$479,992 was expended on the project leaving a \$0 balance at March 31, 2012.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

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 \$547,426. During the year, \$426,324 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$121,102 at March 31, 2012.

J. Elder Abuse

In a prior year, the Council received \$50,000 to develop an elder abuse prevention and intervention model. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$30,141. During the year \$30,141 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$0 at March 31, 2012.

K. Taking a Stand

In a prior year, the Council received \$40,875 to engage men to change individual and social patterns that perpetuate violence against women (VAW) by facilitating young men's awareness of the root causes of VAW, inspiring a personal drive to participate in change, and empowering them to realize the impact they can have, family violence can be prevented. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$18,408. During the year, \$18,408 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$0 at March 31, 2012.

L. 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 \$119,900. During the year, \$98,535 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$21,365 at March 31, 2012.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

M. NATIONAL CRIME WEEK PREVENTION

In the prior year, the Council received \$10,000 to analyze the impact of socio-economic trends and patterns on demands for shelter services. During the year, \$10,000 was expended leaving an unexpended balance of \$0 at March 31, 2012.

N. 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 \$16,039. During the year, the Council received an additional \$50,000 and \$33,949 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$32,090 at March 31, 2012.

O. Uniting to End Violence

In the prior years, the Council received \$485,075 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. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$135,674. During the year, the Council received \$494,444 and \$630,118 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$0 at March 31, 2012.

P. Global Secretariat

In a prior year, the Council received \$10,000 to unite the women's shelter movement globally to end violence against women and their children. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$8,434. During the year, \$8,434 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$0 at March 31, 2012.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

Q. 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 \$42,113. During the year, the Council received \$53,859 and \$57,061 was expended on the project leaving a balance of \$38,911 at March 31, 2012.

R. 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, no amount was expended on the project leaving a balance of \$4,070 at March 31, 2012.

S. 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 \$130,285. During the year, \$95,542 was expended on the project leaving a balance of \$34,743 at March 31, 2012.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	2012		2011	
	Cost \$	Accumulated Amortization \$	Net Book Value \$	Net Book Value \$
Office equipment	\$48,558	\$38,296	\$10,262	\$12,827
Computer equipment	17,591	16,517	1,074	1,603
	<u>\$66,149</u>	<u>\$54,813</u>	<u>\$11,336</u>	<u>\$14,430</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.

	2012 \$	2011 \$
(a) Stabilization reserve The Council has established a stabilization reserve to hold three months of operating expenses. The Board approved an additional \$10,000 allocation to this reserve during the year.	62,000	52,000
(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	68,450
(d) Outcome Tracker Transition Costs The Council has established a reserve to be used for transition costs by staff.	-	23,000
	<u>116,876</u>	<u>158,450</u>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012**

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Funds gained from a Casino event are placed in a separate bank account. These funds, which total \$60,898 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.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Council has chosen to follow the disclosure requirements found in Section 3861, Financial Instruments – Disclosure and Presentation, of the Handbook of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Financial instruments of the Council consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The carrying value of these financial instruments approximates their fair values due to their short-term nature.

It is management's opinion that the company is not exposed to any significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments.

COMMITMENT

The Council rents premises under an operating lease which expires February 28, 2012. Annual rental of \$13,126 under this lease expires in 2012.

GRANT SCHEDULE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
United to End Violence	630,118	327,645
Walking The Path Together – NCPC	479,992	484,013
Walking The Path Together-SCIF	426,324	359,433
Operations/Council	206,272	175,963
Child Care	98,535	35,100
Making Amends	95,539	19,718
Workplace Violence - HSAA	72,232	29,735
Taking a Stand	72,165	22,290
UN Women – Canadian Network	57,061	11,490
Bursary Program – Children’s Services (recovery)	37,545	52,981
Stollery	33,949	33,961
Aboriginal Awareness	17,461	-
Practical Frameworks for Change	15,700	30,101
National Crime Prevention Week	10,000	7,394
Global Secretariat	8,434	1,566
IODE – Crisis Training	5,500	5,800
Family Business Connect	4,591	-
World Conference	4,113	(4,113)
Elder Abuse	1,009	26,790
CEFV	-	21,472
Trend Analysis in Alberta shelters	-	10,000
CWF II – Canadian Network	-	5,000
PFVB- Education Program	-	4,971
International Network Women’s	-	4,077
CWF Practical Frameworks	-	1,451
CWF – Canadian Network	-	930
Danger Assessment – CIF	-	60
	<u>2,276,540</u>	<u>1,667,828</u>

The Making Amends project disbursed **\$67,582** during this past fiscal year and **120** individuals in **15 rural shelters** were helped by this project.

Commit Listen
Support Roots Believe
Aware Communicate

The Domestic Violence in the Workplace Curriculum was developed. **14 agreements** were made with partners through Family Business Connect. Approximately **44 meetings and training sessions** were held.



4.

Valued Supporters

Alberta Children and Youth Services
Alberta Department of Justice and Solicitor General
Alberta Health Services
Alberta Culture and Community Spirit
ATB Financial
Bee-Clean Building Maintenance
Bill Daly
Brenda Stafford Foundation
Butler Family Foundation
Canadian National Railway
Canadian Women's Foundation
Department of Justice Canada
Donna Hammerlindl
Edmonton City Centre Mall
Edmonton Community Foundation
Edmonton Police Services
Enbridge
EPCOR
Epic Software Corporation
Grant MacEwan Students' Association
Health Sciences Association of Alberta
IODE Provincial Chapter of Alberta
Law Show Committee, University of Alberta
Ledcor Corporation
Mammoet
National Crime Prevention Centre
Safe Communities Innovation Fund
Patrick McDonald
Precision Drilling Corporation
Professional Locksmith Association of Alberta
Royal Alexandra Hospital
Serena Fashions
Shaw Communications
Service Credit Union
Status of Women Canada
Syncrude
The Stollery Charitable Foundation
TELUS
Union 52 Benevolent Society
United Way