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1997 - 1998  
Annual Report

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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### We Believe

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

### Our Areas of Concern

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

### Our Focus

- *abused women and their families*

### Our Purpose

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

### Our Goals

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

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1998**

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

Le Gueridon Dining Room

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|-----------------------|--|
| 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | <b>Guest Speaker: Joan Wright, Executive Director of The Support Network speaking on "Crisis Intervention Certification"</b> |
| 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Buffet Dinner  |

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order - President, Jean Langdon
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes from the June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1997 Annual General Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
  - ◆ Audited Financial Statement
  - ◆ Appointment of Auditor for 1998-1999
5. Acceptance of 1997-1998 Annual Report
6. Nominations Report - Election of Officers
7. Adjournment

# ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

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## GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1998**

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

**Brighton Room**

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8:30 - 9:30 am	Board Representatives Meeting
8:30 am	Coffee, Tea, Juice and Muffins Served
9:30 am	Call to Order
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Announcements
4. Approval of Minutes from March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1998
5. Business Arising from Minutes
6. Correspondence
7. Formation of Committees
8. Committee Reports
9. Provincial Coordinator's Report
10. Director's Meeting Report
11. Other Business
12. Dates for 1998/1999 Council Meetings
13. Adjournment

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**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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# ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1997  
Edmonton, Alberta

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Edmonton, Alberta.

ATTENDEES	
Heather Richards	A Safe Place
Arlene Chapman	Alberta Council of Women's Shelters
Flavia Bourne	Alberta Council of Women's Shelters
Gerda Wittebrood	Brenda Strafford Centre
Joanna New	Brenda Strafford Centre
Stephanie Wellings	Calgary Native Women's Shelter Society
Karen Blase	Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter
Cecile Lavoie	Columbus House of Hope
Kathleen Nakagawa	Crossroads Resource Centre
Norma Peters	Discovery House
Jean Langdon	Discovery House
Gayle Vincent	Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre
Joie Dery	Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre
Ione Challborn	Edmonton Women's Shelter Ltd.
Linette McNamara-Paetz	Edmonton Women's Shelter Ltd.
Sister Susan Boyle	Lurana Shelter
Rhonda Breitzkreuz	Lurana Shelter
Robin Krause	Medicine Hat Women's Shelter
Bev Moylan	Odyssey House
Valerie Hawkins	Peace River Regional Women's Shelter
Diana Broekaert	Safe Home High Level
Pat Kulscar	Safe Home High Level
Mariella Sneddon	Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Center
Joanne Moran	Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Center
Uta Fox	Wheatland Communities Crisis Society
Pat Garrett	Wings of Providence
RoseMarie McCarthy	Wings of Providence
Marj Luger	Yellowhead Emergency Shelter
Lesley Lord	Yellowhead Emergency Shelter
Sharlene Campbell	YWCA Harbour House
Guests:	Anne Fitzpatrick, Family Violence Prevention Centre Brenda McDonald, - Guest Speaker Marleen Poon, Protection & Restraining Order Project (PROP) Pat Vargas, Family Violence Centre Suzanne Sauve, Status of Women Canada - Women's Program Velma Laverty, IODE
Absent:	Bigstone Cree Nation Women's Emergency Shelter Camrose Women's Shelter Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter Hope Haven Society Lloydminster Interval Home Sucker Creek Women's Emergency Shelter Unity House, Fort McMurray Youville Women's Residence

Prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting, Jean Langdon introduced and welcomed all the guests. She then introduced the *guest speaker*, **Brenda McDonald**.

# ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

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Brenda was born and raised in Edmonton. She currently works with deaf and hearing impaired children. She became an advocate against family violence when her sister, Susan Klassen, was murdered by her husband. Thus began her fight to change the "Statute Law of Provocation Defense" in the Criminal Code.

Presentation began at 7:00 p.m.

- Brenda's goal is to have the Statute Law of Provocation Defense changed and have men take full responsibility for their violence.

Background:

Susan was born on March 26, 1959. She was the second of six girls. She was raised to respect herself and others. She was an honors student all through high school and graduated from the University of Alberta with distinction.

Then, on the night of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1995, in the Yukon, she was murdered by her husband Ralph. He had driven that night from High River to the Yukon.

Previously, in the fall of 1995, they had agreed to separate. Ralph did not want to stay in the Yukon while Susan loved it. He was jealous of her talent, jealous of her ever being with someone else.

At the trial, Ralph reported that he had travelled to see her to 'reconcile' and that she had known of his arrival. Next, in the middle of the night, he went into a rage, strangled her and says that he does not remember anything after that.

He apologized for his fit of rage. He tried to commit suicide after by driving into someone else with his car. Ralph suffered no injuries while the driver of the other car continues to receive physical therapy for his injuries. Ralph was never charged for this crime.

Furthermore, it was discovered that he had also abused his first wife. But none of this was ever brought up in the trial. The defense at trial, argued 'provocation' because Susan had insulted his manhood. Thus, they claimed he did not have "intent" to cause her harm. His final verdict was manslaughter with a five year sentence with an eligibility for parole after fifteen months.

Thus, my cause began. I have been circulating a petition since February of this year to try to amend the provocation defense. As it stands now, the victim is accused for the violence of the abuser.

The Provocation Defense shifts the responsibility of a man's crime to the woman. If the crime is committed during 'the heat of passion', the motive of the crime is lessened. This

# ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

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law when put to test provides compassion for the men who abuse. By justifying their violent action from an insult to their manhood asserts the ownership over their wives.

This is a 200 year old law which legitimizes the man's power and control over a woman. It does not, however, work in the reverse situation or in the case of a black man. Women and black men are held fully responsible for their actions.

Presentation ended at 7:20 p.m.

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## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by President, Jean Langdon.

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## **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion** THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by: RoseMarie McCarthy  
Seconded: Sharlene Campbell  
Carried.

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## **Approval of Minutes of June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1996 Annual General Meeting**

**Motion** THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9<sup>th</sup>, 1996 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BE APPROVED WITH THE CORRECTION OF THE TIME CHANGED ON THEM.

Moved by: Mariella Sneddon  
Seconded: Leslie Strong  
Carried.

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**Treasurer's Report** - RoseMarie McCarthy reported the following:

- ◆ Balance Sheet - Last year we agreed to allocate \$20,000 as a contingency fund and \$10,000 for equipment replacement which are reflected in the Auditor's Report

**Motion** THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Moved by: RoseMarie McCarthy

# ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

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Seconded: Sharlene Campbell  
Carried.

**Motion** THAT THE FIRM OF DITTMER & GOMME BE APPOINTED AS THE AUDITORS FOR ACWS FOR 1997-1998.

Moved by: RoseMarie McCarthy  
Seconded: Cecile Lavoie  
Carried.

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## **Acceptance of 1996-1997 ACWS Annual Report**

**Motion** THAT THE 1996-1997 ACWS ANNUAL REPORT BE ACCEPTED.

Moved by: Pat Kulscar  
Seconded: Sharlene Campbell  
Carried.

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**Elections** - Sister Susan Boyle was the Nomination Chair.

**Motion** THE ACCEPTANCE BY ACCLAMATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

◆ RoseMarie McCarthy, Treasurer

Moved by: Sister Susan Boyle  
Carried.

An election for the position of Vice-President was held. Pat Kulscar, Northwest Alberta Resource Society, and Sharlene Campbell, YWCA Harbour House, both ran for this position. The election took place and **Sharlene Campbell** was re-elected as Vice-President.

**Motion** THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

Moved by: Pat Kulscar  
Seconded: Sister Conboy  
Carried.

## **Adjournment**

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



# ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

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Moved by: Sharlene Campbell  
Seconded: Stephanie Wellings  
Carried.

The meeting concluded at 8:35 p.m.

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## *PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT*

1997-1998 was a busy year for all of us at the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. We have continued our negotiations with government on a variety of issues. We were pleased to welcome Maria David-Evans to our November Conference and to meet with her subsequently regarding additional funding for salaries.

This year we held our first annual "Crisis Workers Conference". It is anticipated that shelter staff will become certified Crisis Counsellors as a result of the conference. We are working to have this conference established as an annual event for crisis counsellors in the same way as we have the IODE Child Support Worker's Conference.

We are collaborating with a number of groups and government personnel to look at wage disparity in the non-profit versus government sector. We are receiving strong support from the other members and expect this will result in more equitable wages for shelter workers. The Standards Committee has worked diligently and the Director's Manual is near completion. Our Provincial Coordinator, Arlene Chapman, has a media profile and has responded to justice, poverty, safety and family violence issues. In addition, Arlene has been involved with several committees at both a provincial and federal government level. Flavia Bourne and Arlene are both kept busy and the number of calls coming into the office for information from across Canada is increasing each year. We are very fortunate to have both Arlene and Flavia as they do excellent work and represent ACWS well.

I want to thank all of the Board Representatives and the Executive Directors for their continued attendance, support, and active participation in the work of ACWS. The strength of our Council is our ability to work together, share information, respond to issues and adapt change when necessary.

In this coming year we will see more Regional Authorities established and business plans developed. There will be challenges and a need to review our mandate in light of change, however, I believe we have the ability to adapt and successfully meet the challenges of the future.

Respectively submitted by:  
Jean M. Langdon  
June 1998



## *PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT*

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ACWS continues with several meetings weekly addressing the many issues which affect sheltering in Alberta. Jean and myself have been meeting with other not for profit sectors and government to address the wage disparities between our sector and government. A great deal of work has gone into this project. We are currently preparing a lengthy document which will be presented to government in the hope of bringing our wages up to a fair level. Meetings to prepare this document are bi-weekly with much work done in the interim. When the document is complete a copy will be forwarded to all member shelters.

The Standards Consolidation Team piece is completed and has been distributed as the "Provincial Accountability Framework for Child and Family Services. The document outlines the governance framework, funding model, standards, monitoring and evaluation models to be used by the regional authorities. The formal transfer of responsibility for services to children and families for the Calgary Rocky View Child and Family Services took place in May. Appointment to the remaining 17 regional authorities has been delayed. As the redesign continues, and the transfer of responsibility for services moves forward, it is important that we remain vigilant. I have been participating on the Advisory Committee with the Edmonton Social Planning Council which is critiquing the document. Focus groups will be held in June and concerns arising from this document will be brought forward to government.

I participated in another group to look at the Standards with the Official Opposition. All agencies at the table have the same concerns as shelters. The document is not well received by any of the participating agencies.

The Family Violence Advisory Committee (Alberta Justice) met in Calgary last month to discuss the new Protection Against Family Violence Act, the project to look at sentencing patterns in spousal assault cases and any new initiatives in policing across Alberta. Unfortunately, statistics on sentencing patterns will be delayed until sometime in the future.

Jean and I met with Carol Hutchings and board members from Elizabeth Fry to discuss the possibility of doing a joint fundraiser for our organizations. Investigation into the possibilities will take place over the summer months.

In April I attended a conference called: "Expanding the Dialogue - A coordinated Justice Response to Domestic Violence." The purpose of the conference was to look at a coordinated effort from all departments involved to better serve victims of spousal

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assault. The conference included the Justice Department, Crown Prosecutors, Calgary Police Service, Social Services, Child Protection, Shelters, and all agencies working with family violence issues. It was very well attended and I believe we will see a similar conference take place in Edmonton sometime this year.

The Edmonton Council Against Family Violence (ECAFV) has met twice and it was decided, by vote, that a one year moratorium would be in place for ECAFV.

The Alberta Coalition of Women has met several times and planning for a conference this fall is currently under way. The conference will address the feminization of poverty, equality in the justice system and women's equality issues. When a date and agenda is set I will inform the membership.

ACWS continues to meet with OPFV and we are currently in the process of completing the documentation required to receive our \$30,000.00 grant from the province. We expect to have the money by the end of July and we have been informed that the grant has become part of the family violence funding and we will now receive it on a yearly basis! This is definitely good news for the Council!

OPFV called and asked if ACWS would like Jocelyn Bergener MLA to speak to Council in September on the new Protection Against Family Violence legislation. Please provide me with feedback if you feel this would be of benefit.

We have received funding from Status of Women Canada for Phase II of the Violet Project. We also have grant applications in with several funders in hopes of supplying all shelters with the necessary computer hardware and the cost of an internet server. I will advise you if we are successful in obtaining the equipment for you.

I have had several meetings with Status of Women Canada regarding our application for funding for the current fiscal year. It seems the new guidelines have proven much more difficult than anticipated. Work on the applications is now complete and we await word on our funding status.

The ACWS Benefits Committee has met to discuss the need for policy around the Short and Long Term Disability Benefits through the Great West Life Benefit Plan. I should have the information ready for you at the June meeting.

Areas of Concern include the following:

1. **Funding:** Funding levels for Alberta shelters during the three year transitional period to Regions.
2. **Staffing Model:** Efforts continue by ACWS to have the new Staffing Model accepted.
3. **Salaries:** Lobby efforts to increase shelter staff salaries is ongoing.
4. **Directors Manual:** One further meeting is required to complete the manual so that it can be distributed at the fall meeting.

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The Indo Canadian Women's Association in collaboration with other sister organizations is going to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Universal Human Rights. They will hold a conference to focus on the impact of the declaration of human rights on the various issues facing women in the signatory countries, during the past fifty years. The theme of the conference is: "Social Justice and Peace". I have participated on the Advisory Committee to determine human rights issues faced by women in Edmonton and how to best address concerns.