WHAT DIFFERENCE DO WE MAKE?





ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002





WE IMPROVE THE LIVES OF WOMEN & CHILDREN





MISSION STATEMENT

"TO PROVIDE A COLLECTIVE AND UNIFIED VOICE TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN SHELTERS FOR ABUSED WOMEN AND FAMILIES."



Front Row L to R: Pat Kulscar, Jeannie Dumont, Nadia Clarke, Kathy Sheppard, Karen Hoover, Sister Rita Coulombe, Linda White, Pat Garrett

Second Row L to R: Jean Langdon, Marlene Iverson, Cecile Lavoie, Heather Richards, Brenda Brochu, Pat Vargas, Sister Lucinda May Patterson, Marj Luger, Kathleen Nakagawa, Bonnie Paul

Third Row L to R: Pat Carter, Joie Dery, Moriah Boyd, Cassie Putnam, Sharon Christie, Heike DeGraff, Leslie Regelous, Kristine Cassie, Ermine Cummings

Back Row L to R: Robin Krause, Lana Wells, Diana Broekaert, Lise Blanchette, Sister Mary Helena Sproul

A MESSAGE FROM LANA WELLS, PRESIDENT



This past year was one of transition as we moved from our former structure (with a board of 37) to a smaller, representative board of both

shelter staff and their board volunteers. We now have a strategic plan in place, which sees ACWS moving forward with six key goals. These goals are: 1) to be a responsive, well-resourced and proactive organization, 2) to implement a user-friendly shelter based information system, 3) to establish client centred core services for shelters province wide, 4) to be recognized as a vehicle for social change, 5) to obtain stable, standardized province wide core funding for shelters, and 6) to ensure stable core funding for ACWS.

I am happy to announce that ACWS has been successful implementing many of these goals. In the past year we obtained funds for the implementation of a shelter database system, which will help us mobilize the community on family violence issues. This is an exciting initiative because we will be better at gathering and monitoring our statistics, trends and issues thus providing better information to the public, government and members. In addition, Status of Women has provided us with funding to look at shelter salary issues and to update the ACWS Compendium of Service, assisting us in identifying core shelter services.

ACWS is working hard to be recognized as a vehicle for social change and are often asked by government for input on key issues relating to family violence. In the past year, we have been very busy creating position papers, meeting with government, and providing input into legislation. We have been particularly active in four major areas:

- 1. Providing input to the federal government's proposed changes to the Divorce Act and its impact on women and children;
- 2. Assisting and meeting with the province's Low Income Review Committee and Ministry to identify the barriers women face due to the province's meagre income support program Supports for Independence (SFI) that has remained static since 1993;
- 3. Providing input and guiding the Minister of Child and Family Service's Women's Shelter Review;
- 4. Designing and articulating our position with respect to the Child Welfare Act to ensure that the of children who witness violence are met.

ACWS also began working on a memorandum of understanding with the Province and the RCMP to ensure there is a consistent response to family violence across the province. The shelters will assist us in monitoring the implementation of this memorandum and we will be reporting back next year on the changes of services to woman and children. I believe the merging of the executive directors and Board members on the Council has enriched ACWS' work. A special thanks to all of our members for their dedication and support in implementing the changes to the Council; and to the first Board members of our revamped structure for pioneering the way.

It is hard to believe that such a small organization (with a budget of less than \$200,000) can have such an impact in the province. The success of ACWS is directly related to our committed volunteers and our amazing staff, Jan and Flavia whose commitment, tenacity and ability to work under pressure has facilitated the organization to succeed beyond all expectations. A sincere thanks to the staff and volunteers for making ACWS a great organization to work with.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lana Wells Lise Blanchette Pat Carter Pat Garrett Brenda Strafford Centre YWCA Sheriff King Home A Safe Place Wings of Providence

Gerry Carter Nadia Clarke Joie Dery Mike Dickinson Karen Hoover Kathy Sheppard Phoenix Safe House Peace River Regional Women's Shelter Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre Hope Haven Society YWCA Harbour House Odyssey House

President Vice-President Treasurer Secretary



Front Row L to R: Kathy Sheppard, Sharon Christie, Lana Wells Second Row L to R: Nadia Clarke, Joie Dery, Pat Carter, Karen Hoover, Lise Blanchette, Mike Dickinson

OUR MEMBER SHELTERS

A Safe Place Awo Taan Native Women's Shelter Society **B**igstone Cree Nation Women's Emergency Shelter **B**renda Strafford Centre **B**rigantia Place Brooks & District Women's Safe Shelter Society Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter Columbus House of Hope **C**rossroads Resource Centre **D**iscovery House Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre Eagle Women's Emergency Shelter Edmonton Senior Safe Housing. Edmonton Women's Shelter Ltd. Ermineskin Women's Shelter Hope Haven Society Kerby Centre La Salle Residence Lloydminster Interval Home Lurana Shelter Mikisew Cree First Nation - Paspew House **O**dvssev House Peace River Regional Women's Shelter Phoenix Safe House Pincher Creek Women's Emergency Shelter Safe Home, A Project of Northwest Alberta Resource Society Sonshine Community Services Sucker Creek Women's Emergency Shelter Taber & District Family Crisis Intervention Society **U**nity House Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre Wheatland Community Crisis Society Wings of Providence Yellowhead Emergency Shelter Youville Women's Residence YWCA Harbour House YWCA Family Support Centre & Sheriff King Home

Sherwood Park, Alberta Calgary, Alberta Desmarais, Alberta Calgary, Alberta Camrose, Alberta Brooks, Alberta Calgary, Alberta Red Deer, Alberta St. Paul. Alberta Fairview, Alberta Calgary, Alberta Cold Lake, Alberta Black Diamond, Alberta Edmonton, Alberta Edmonton, Alberta Hobbema, Alberta Lac La Biche, Alberta Calgary, Alberta Edmonton, Alberta Lloydminster, Alberta Edmonton, Alberta Fort Chipewan, Alberta Grande Prairie, Alberta Peace River, Alberta Medicine Hat, Alberta Pincher Creek, Alberta High Level, Alberta Calgary, Alberta Sucker Creek, Alberta Taber, Alberta Fort McMurray, Alberta Whitecourt, Alberta Strathmore, Alberta Edmonton, Alberta Hinton, Alberta Calgary, Alberta Lethbridge, Alberta Calgary, Alberta

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Mountain Rose Women's Shelter Association

Rocky Mountain House, AB

OUR COMMITTEES

(Annual Committee Reports available upon request)

ABORIGINAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Brenda Brochu Ermine Cummings Janet Gladue Annette Lee Solomon Yellowknee Diana Broekaert Heike DeGraff Tammy Grove Kathy Sheppard Jill Chesley Sandra Ermineskin Marlene Iverson Pat Vargas

BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Pat Carter	Pat Garrett	Jean Langdon
Sister Lucinda May Patterson		

EDUCATION & TRAINING COMMITTEE

Brenda Bruchal
Sylvia Fleury
Pat Kulscar
Kathy Sheppard

Nadia Clarke Karen Hoover Karen Pease Pat Vargas

Sandra Danco Kate Hynes Lori Phillips

SHELTER PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Moriah Boyd	Gerry Carter	Kristine Cassie
Nadia Clarke	Sandra Danco	Joie Dery
Pat Garrett	Carolyn Goard	Marj Luger
Doreen McCaw	Kathleen Nakagawa	Pat Vargas

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Lise Blanchette	Michelle Briegel-Kranjcevic	Kristine Cassie
Ermine Cummings	Sandra Danco	Heike DeGraff
Carolyn Goard	Shari Narine	Lori Phillips
Kathy Sheppard	Pat Vargas	

CHILD WELFARE ACT REVIEW AD HOC COMMITTEE

Michelle Briegel-Kranjcevic Kristine Cassie Heike DeGraff Shari Narine Brenda Brochu Ermine Cummings Jeannie Dumont Pat Vargas Gerry Carter Sandra Danco Jean Dunbar

OUR STAFF



Jan Reimer Provincial Coordinator



Flavia Robles Special Projects & Office Manager

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Henry Baldt Arlene Chapman Anita Cochrane Peggy Dick Carla Hanf Catherine Hedlin Mike Jacobs RoseMarie McCarthy Pilar Robles Rob Squire Art Beliveau Linda Churchill Jim Cregan Dora Francis Corey Hanf Kevin Hendricks Connie McBride Myrna Peets Darlene Saunders Mary Anne Warren

Front Row: Dora Francis Second Row L to R: Mike Jacobs, Arlene Chapman, Carla Hanf, Corey Hanf



OUR FUNDERS

STATUS OF WOMEN CANADA

Supported ACWS to continue our work

OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

Supported ACWS to continue our work in partnership with OPFV

MUTTART FOUNDATION

Supported ACWS Restructuring Process and Provincial Voices for Action & Change Project

IMPERIAL ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE EMPIRE

Sponsor for IODE Child Support Worker's Workshop

EDMONTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Supported Crisis Intervention Worker's Workshop

ALBERTA HUMAN RIGHTS AND CITIZENSHIP COMMISSION

Supported our Aboriginal "Blankets, Bibles & Beads" Project

THANK YOU.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

AUDITORS' REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2002

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Gary E. Kropp* John A. Crozier* Walter E. Noot* Heinz R. Lemke* Allan L. Rowswell* WOODS & COMPANY Chartered Accountants

> Suite 990, AT&T Canada Tower 10250 - 101 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3P4 Phone (780) 423-5050 Fax (780) 423-5091 www.woodsco.ab.ca

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, 2002 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets 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, 2002 and the results of its operations and its cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

August 1, 2002 Edmonton, Alberta

Woods i langery

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MARCH 31, 2002

	2002 \$	2001 \$		
ASSETS				
CURRENT Cash Accounts receivable (note 2)	127,662 66,044 193,706	156,927 2,059 158,986		
CAPITAL ASSETS (note 4)	11,030	10,516		
	204,736	169,502		
LIABILITIES				
CURRENT Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Unexpended grants (note 3)	1,385 66,269 67,654	1,385 59,170 60,555		
NET ASSETS				
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	93,741	66,120		
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS (note 5)	32,311	32,311		
INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS	<u> 11,030</u> <u> 137,082</u>	<u> 10,516</u> <u> 108,947</u>		
	204,736	169,502		

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2002

	2002				2001
	Investment	Internally			
	in Capital	Restricted			
	Assets	(note 5)	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE - BEGINNING	10 510		66 120	100 0 47	
OF YEAR	10,516	32,311	66,120	108,947	61,766
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(8,241)	-	27,621	19,380	49,889
INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS	8,755	-	-	8,755	-
INTERNAL RESTRICTIONS (note 5(a))					(2,708)
BALANCE - END OF YEAR	11,030	32,311	93,741	137,082	108,947

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2002

	2002 \$	2001 \$
REVENUE		·
Casino	67,474	18,002
Status of Women Canada	60,000	60,000
Government of Alberta	30,000	30,000
Membership fees	16,500	15,450
Muttart Foundation - restructuring	9,375	
Lottery Board grant (note 3(e))	9,226	÷
Workshop fees	6,947	5,989
Donations	5,040	18,900
Administration fees	3,000	3,000
Interest and other income	2,717	1,918
Fundraising	1,675	41,586
Wild Rose Foundation	<u></u>	6,000
	211,954	200,845
EXPENDITURES		
Wages and employee benefits	98,456	85,570
Council travel and meetings	31,673	31,327
Restructuring	10,818	Э.
Capital purchases (note 3(e))	9,226	p =
Workshops	8,581	6,591
Amortization	8,241	5,358
Office and miscellaneous	6,083	4,825
Staff travel	5,262	4,740
Telephone	4,458	3,800
Occupancy costs	3,593	3,027
Recruitment and training	2,044	1,448
Professional fees	1,863	1,553
Insurance	1,334	408
Books and subscriptions	864	1,095
Newsletter and brochures	78	922
SFI project expenditures		292
	192,574	150,956
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	19,380	49,889

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2002

PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters acts as a liaison between womens' shelters in Alberta and various levels of government and serves as a unified voice of member organizations relating to issues affecting battered women.

The Council 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)(I) of the Income Tax Act.

NOTE 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles which require 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 income and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The accounting policies used in these financial statements are as follows:

(a) 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 collection is reasonably assured.

(b) Capital Assets -

Capital assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is provided using the straight-line method at the following annual rates:

Office equipment	20%
Computer equipment	33 1/3%

(c) Financial Instruments -

The Council's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities. It is management's opinion that the Council is not exposed to any significant interest, currency, or credit risks arising from these financial instruments.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2002

NOTE 2 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Included in accounts receivable is an amount of \$60,000 due from The Status of Women Canada.

NOTE 3 - UNEXPENDED GRANTS

(a) Provincial Voices for Action and Change -

In a prior year, the council agreed to act as host agency for the Provincial Voices for Action and Change (PVAC). In this capacity the Council received contributions in the aggregate amount of \$90,000 (including \$29,000 received in the current year) to conduct research to further the community's understanding of the social policy issues facing vulnerable and atrisk children, families and individuals. During the current year \$20,181 was expended on the project. The unexpended portion at March 31, 2002 was \$40,605.

(b) Aboriginal Liaison Project -

In a prior year, the council agreed to act as host agency for the Aboriginal Liaison Project and received contributions of \$32,000. The focus of the project is to conduct research into the institutional changes required in the area of family violence. During the current year \$9,954 was expended on the project. The unexpended portion at March 31, 2002 was \$7,830.

(c) Transition Point Project -

In a prior year, the council agreed to act as host agency for the Transition Point Project and received contributions of \$9,600. The focus of the project is to conduct research into the issue of homelessness and the need for affordable housing for low-income families. During the current year \$6,275 was expended on the project. The unexpended balance at March 31, 2002 was \$9,600.

(d) Crisis Intervention Workers Workshop -

During the year the Council received a grant of \$10,000 to be used to present a Crisis Intervention Workers (CIW) conference and workshop. The CIW conference was held subsequent to the year end. The unexpended balance at March 31, 2002 was \$10,000.

(e) Equipment and support -

During the year the Council received a grant of \$13,735 to be used for office modernization. The Council expended \$9,226 during the year on updated office equipment and related items. The unexpended balance at March 31, 2002 was \$4,509.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2002

NOTE 4 - CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets consist of the following:

		2002		
		ACCUMULATED		
	COST	AMORTIZATION	NET	NET
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Office equipment	17,754	12,146	5,608	8,596
Computer equipment	13,949	8,527	5,422	1,920
	31,703	20,673	11,030	10,516

NOTE 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 amounts for any other purpose without the approval of the board of directors.

(a)	Conference Reserve -	2002 \$	2001 \$
	The council has established a reserve to fund a conference on issues relating to battered women. The reserve is used to fund any shortfall in conference revenue.	5,259	5,259
(b)		0,200	57255
	The council has established a contingency reserve in the amount of an estimated two months' operating costs.	20,000	20,000
(c)	Equipment Replacement Reserve -		
	The council has established an equipment replacement reserve in order to replace office equipment as it becomes necessary.	7,052	7,052
		32,311	32,311

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2002

NOTE 6 - STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

A statement of cash flow has not been prepared as it would not add significantly to the information contained in the accompanying financial statements.



ANNUAL REPORT 2004



The ACWS logo symbolizes a dove for peace; clasped hands portray our unified voice; and a heart represents the courage and caring of shelter workers and the women and children they serve.

ACWS Believes...



in a world free from violence and abuse;



in empowerment for women and in 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.

Message from the President

Approximately 23 years ago, a group of committed, forward-thinking women gathered together to talk about creating a unified voice for women's shelters in the province. Three years later, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) was chartered, with nine founding shelter members. Today we are 41 strong. In Edmonton last November, we celebrated 20 years of collaboration by shelters across the province as they worked to create a unified voice and dared to dream of a world free from violence and abuse. It was a great evening, punctuated by the talent and insights of Sheldon Elder and his presentation of "Metis Mutt." The Honourable Anne McLellan MP also brought greetings and best wishes from the federal government.

In its early years, ACWS successfully lobbied the government for assured, ongoing funding for existing emergency shelters. We also negotiated a generic contract with Alberta Social Services for use by all shelters. This was based on a definition of core services as established in 1986. Today, we are almost at the point where **provincially funded** shelters are funded equitably, again based on the 1986 core service definition. Our work on behalf of our members continues, however, as shelters have evolved to include not only emergency shelters, but also second and third stage shelters, shelters for seniors and shelters on reserve, and the majority of these are not yet provincially funded.

Furthermore, the 1986 core service definition does not reflect the range of services that shelters provide today. However, ACWS committee work over the past year has seen great progress towards the development of funding models for second stage and seniors' shelters and the development of an expanded definition of core services. Finding funding for on-reserve shelters remains a high priority and an advocacy issue.

Key to our original success in establishing ongoing funding were our negotiations with the government to establish policy and standards for women's shelters programming, define shelter services and provide the basis for the funding. This important work has continued over the years, culminating in the last year in the development and adoption of a moral and ethical framework. The *Ethical/Moral Framework* articulates the ethical principles and values that guide all members of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, whether they are in direct service, teaching, research, student, administrative, management or collaborative roles. The *Framework* is also a reference document for the larger community, as it develops protocols, standards and guidelines for addressing and researching family violence. Work continues on the incorporation and expansion of the original provincial standards for women's shelters within the context of the *Framework*.

The past year has also offered an unprecedented opportunity to influence public opinion, policy and the development of family violence services through our participation in the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence. ACWS members can take great pride in our work over the last three years, which in part contributed to the establishment of the Roundtable. Shelters around the province participated in 12 regional roundtables. These culminated in May 2004, when over 300 invited participants gathered in Calgary to examine ideas for addressing family violence that were generated around the province.

Our belief in partnerships saw continued work with the RCMP over the last year. We aimed to

expand our mutual understanding of the Memorandum of Understanding and to participate in cross training between RCMP members and child welfare workers. The need for such training was painfully highlighted by the deaths last September in Red Deer of Alex, Betty and Josef Fekete.

Our work with the Canadian Outcomes Institute continued, with the majority of shelters across the province now on HOMES database. This has allowed us to collect information and highlighted the fact that 47 per cent of women leaving emergency shelter return to their partners because of insufficient income and lack of affordable housing. In turn, this information influenced the province's administration of Supports for Independence (SFI), a program that gives special attention and benefits to women leaving abusive relationships. Our recent partnership with the Alberta Association of Sexual Assault Centres finds us working together to create a vision for Alberta in the areas of family and sexual violence prevention, education and intervention.

Through active committee work, telephone conferences and sharing information via the Internet, we have gotten better at engaging the strength of our membership. Our new web page is a huge accomplishment, averages 60 hits per day and supports our desire to inform the public and our members about our work. Last year, our board attempted to contact all members by telephone prior to board meetings, and we hope this effort has helped members feel connected to the work of the board. Input and feedback from members help us in our work.

The work that shelters do is big work and difficult work! Over the past 20 years, we have stayed true to our mission of working to create a world free of violence and abuse. In doing so, we have created partnerships with the Ministry of Children's Services, Calgary's Action Committee Against Violence and media outlets and were able to air our public service announcement "Family Violence Is Your Business" on radio and television across the province (as well as in print) during last November's Family Violence Prevention Month. Who would have imagined that in twenty years we would have made such progress?

Our success has been, and continues to be, rooted in the inimitable courage and strength of our ACWS colleagues across the province. These are the staff and volunteers who work countless hours to forward the message of "peace within families," especially among those women and children who have accessed our services. The ACWS office continues to grow and evolve, most recently with the addition of a new research position. We are indeed fortunate to have Jan Reimer's continued leadership during this period of significant growth and



Minister Iris Evans

development of family violence services.

Iris Evans, our Minister of Children's Services, and her staff have played a key role in recognizing ACWS as a leader in coordinating services for women and children fleeing violence and in standardizing best practices with respect to these services in the province. Minister Evans cares deeply about the issue of woman abuse and more broadly the issue of family violence. She cares deeply about children. On behalf of ACWS and all of the women and children we shelter, it is my honour to say "Thank you." We are truly grateful.

Submitted by Carolyn Goard, President of the ACWS board

Message from the Provincial Coordinator

This year, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) marked 20 years of service to shelters and the women and children they serve. It was a year that again saw painful tragedies underscore the need for shelters and a community based collaborative response to family violence.

But this past year was also a year of hope. ACWS played a significant role in the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence by involving shelters and various stakeholders as well as by responding to requests for input on the needs of abused women and children.

For the first time, we saw a partnership with the provincial government during Family Violence Prevention Month, which led to a significant increase in public awareness and certainly has generated a significant increase in calls to our office.

In this last year, we created two public service announcements, one in collaboration with Calgary's Action Committee on Violence and a number of corporate sponsors. It was broadcast three times daily during November. The other was developed in partnership with WIFTA (Women In Film and TV Association) and will be aired next November.

We also participated in numerous reviews, including the New Identities for Victims of Abuse (NIVA) program and the review of Unified Family Court. We also served on and chaired the Provincial Child Welfare Protocols Committee and reviewed our Memorandum of Understanding with the RCMP.

Thanks to the support of an anonymous donor, we were able to provide funds to our member shelters when they experienced unforeseen emergencies. Shelters were able to access this fund to replace water heaters, to deal with flood damage and mould, and to cope with the breakdown of appliances, to name a few. The same anonymous donor is also providing support to the Ray of Hope pilot program, which provides financial support to women leaving abusive relationships and is administered through our office.

This year also saw full implementation of salary increases for some of the staff in provincially funded shelters, as well as the introduction of core funding. We continue to work toward our goal of ensuring that all shelters have a solid funding base and are recognized for the essential services they provide.

Calls for submissions to our *Standing Together* book project went out in the last quarter of this year, and we have received significant interest from the general public. We have also updated our webpage.

ACWS expanded its role in training, bringing in world class experts such as Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, who offered a danger assessment course to shelter workers, and Drs. Peter Jaffe and Linda Baker for their Children Exposed to Family Violence I training. We also recruited excellent local trainers, who then went on to provide regional training across the province.

All of this activity could not be undertaken without the strong and active support of our ACWS board and membership. Thank you all for the work you do! My thanks as well to ACWS staff, who frequently go above and beyond the call of duty. We are indeed fortunate to have the kind of staff people who can arrange donations and an airlift of supplies to a shelter in an hour and find a drum at 7:00 a.m. on a Monday morning.

Submitted by Jan Reimer, Provincial Coordinator

Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, Annual Report 2004

A Year in Review





Carolyn Goard gives awards to ACWS contributors at 20th Anniversary celebration.



Jan Reimer at 20th Anniversary celebration

Honourable Ann McLellan speaks at ACWS 20th Anniversary celebration.



Mr. Hugh Campbell, CEO Edmonton Eskimos Spoke at the Family Violence Prevention Month



Sheldon Elter performed his hit play Metis Mutt for the ACWS 20th Anniversary celebration.



Peter Jaffe during a panel discussion at the RoundTable in Calgary



Moriah Boyd says a tearful goodbye after 20 years with ACWS.

Committees - Aboriginal Advisory Prepared by Katherine Sheppard, Chair

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee completed a number of initiatives that follow directly from its mandate. Many of these initiatives had to do with cultural awareness.

First the committee developed and circulated interview questions to help shelter directors assess the cultural awareness of potential employees. Since it is vital that shelter directors themselves also communicate cultural sensitivity, the committee asked all directors to complete the checklist from the resource manual *Bible, Blankets and Beads*. Ten shelters responded, and the committee tabulated the responses for review.

The committee is pleased to report that Maskaci College has also purchased this resource manual (*Bible, Blankets and Beads*) for one of its programs.

Another responsibility of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee is to recommend a list of Aboriginal resources, which will then be made available to all shelters. This year, the following resource materials were circulated to shelters across the province:

- 1) Seekers and Storytellers
- 2) Alberta Treaty First Nations Community Profiles
- 3) After Marriage Breakdown—On-reserve Matrimonial Home

Respectfully submitted by Katherine Sheppard Committee Chair

Committee Members

Kathy Sheppard, Chair Solomon Yellowknee Brenda Brochu Karen Pease Charlene Cranebear Patti Nooskey Heike DeGraff Gerri Manyfingers Joanna New Joyce Seiiz Joline Bull

Committees – Board Governance Prepared by Pat Garrett, Chair

This year, the Board Governance Committee reviewed a significant number of position statements, including statements on Cross Training, Public Education, Family Violence Commission, Collaborative, Co-operative Community Response, Children Exposed to Family Violence, Custody and Access, Gun Control and the Provincial Family Violence Treatment Program Framework. These have all been posted on the ACWS web page.

We also developed a skills inventory to assist in recruiting for boards and committees. A special thank you goes to our membership for their assistance in this area.

Committee Members

Pat Garrett, Chair Pat Carter Sr. Lucinda May Paterson Josie Nepinak Gerry Carter

Our members are the backbone of our organization, and we worked to look at various mechanisms to improve communication with them. The primary initiative undertaken by the board this year was the "board phone around," where each board member had the responsibility to contact board designates and paid managers in advance of our board meetings to ensure that membership issues are always our first priority.

The committee also developed a strategic planning session and board evaluation process. We are pleased to see the progress we have made in the last year on our strategic plan.

We have also seen increased community interest in becoming members of ACWS. As a result, we have developed new policies and prepared an extra-ordinary resolution that will be presented to our membership at the upcoming annual general meeting.

Submitted by Pat Garrett Chair, Board Governance Committee

Ethics Review Committee Prepared by Sister Lucinda May Patterson, Chair

The Ethics Review Committee members developed a challenging Work plan for itself. Carolyn Goard and Sr. Lucinda May Patterson agreed to act as Co-Chairs of this committee while Pat Garrett agreed to serve in the Board Liaison Position.

The Ethics Review Committee met via Teleconferences and Face to Face meetings. During the year, we reviewed our terms of reference and prepared a committee budget. Given that ACWS is recognized as a Canadian Outcomes Institute research group, the Ethics Review committee reviewed data collection methods and recommended revisions with respect to the HOMES data base application process.

The committee worked hard to develop an Ethical Moral Framework, which was approved by the ACWS board.

ACWS held a Workshop on Ethical Decision Making, facilitated by Dr. Jean Pettifor, on May 13, 2004. Twenty-nine individuals participated in the workshop with all attendees stating they were more familiar with the ethical decision making as a result of the workshop.

Committee Members

Carolyn Goard, Chair Sr. Lucinda MayPatterson, Co-Chair Morian Boyd Kristine Cassie Jim Cregan Ermine Cummings Pat Garrett Dr. Jean Pettifor Mary Jean Thompson

An unexpected outcome from the Ethics Review Committee meeting was for ACWS position papers to be reviewed in light of the ethical framework.

Evaluating core and program standards based in ethical framework is in process. A joint session was held with representatives from ACWS Shelter Programs Committee and representatives from the Provincial Office to review current Combined Standards in light of our ethical framework.

The committee has also set a goal of establishing ethical practice advisors.

Respectfully submitted by Sister Lucinda May Patterson, S.A.

Committees – Education & Training Prepared by Karen Hoover, Chair

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference were reviewed and approved.



Dorothy Morris visits to make a donation on behalf of IODE for our CEFV Training Seminars

Children Exposed to Violence Training

Seminar Level 1: The regional training seminars are complete, with 74 shelter workers trained as well as 33 child welfare workers and 34 individuals from different organizations. These include crown prosecutors, addictions counsellors, police, family service workers, nurses, social service workers, teachers, social workers and social work students, youth service workers, health region representatives, representatives of family violence out-

reach and support programs, immigrant support group representatives and those from victims' services. Thirty shelters ordered resources.

Level 2: The program, held June 7 - 11 at Grant MacEwan's downtown campus, resulted in the training of 155 participants. Five Aboriginal trainers joined the ranks of our training personnel. Shianne Eagleheart and staff from the London Family Court Clinic provided the course, and

participants reported that it was even more valuable than level one training last year. Participants were housed at the Coast Plaza Hotel, and the committee applied for a grant from the province to cover the costs.

The cross training for judges, Supports for Independence (SFI) workers and family courts workers went well, and some issues for future work were identified. The community luncheon was also very successful, and some of the participants included mayors, the Minister of Children's Services, members from local school boards and some RCMP. One program cited awarded the school-age child who was most successful in reducing violence in the school.

There were mixed reviews of the hands-on sessions. Perhaps participants misunderstood its application to the workplaces in which they worked.

No Crisis Intervention Workers Award program was held this year.

Crisis Intervention Training Workers Package

The is Crisis Intervention curriculum is being drafted thanks to the work of Carol McArthur and support from Portage College. The resource will be available to shelters and is probably best suited to workers without a college education.

Committee Members

Karen Hoover, Chair **Mike Dickinson Tess Gordey Karen Pease** Sylvia Fleury **Brenda Bruchal** Jean Dunbar Tracey Hartnett Pair Vargas **Bonnie Paul** Anna Govar Bemice Sewell Genry Curier Leslie Siculier Karen English Kuie Hynes

Administrative Assistants Program

This program was not offered due to a lack of registrants. Potential participants cited a wide range of duties and little common ground among their reasons for not registering.

Public Service Announcements

A public service announcement developed by the Women in Film and Television Association (WIFTA) features a man watching a hockey game and hearing a violent incident next door. His predicament is whether to drown out what he hears next door with the television or to take action.

Family Violence Month - November

Theme: Family Violence is Not Your Business. It was suggested that next year we may wish to add the statement "Take the Pledge." We hope to use the public service announcement described above to work with sports teams in the area and to help bring this thought home to players and coaches.

We are proposing a public awareness initiative to increase public and community understanding of family violence. This will involve downloading posters, workbooks, and notes.

Expanded Role of ACWS

RESOLVE is conducting a review of best practices in shelters. The review will help us identify valuable educational resources that can be used by shelters across the province and assist us in identifying future roles for ACWS in Education and Training.

The Roundtables on Family Violence were held across the province, and shelters identified stakeholders and participated in the round tables. A summary report was provided to ACWS members. Issues and concerns for ACWS members include elder abuse, training needs and service gaps. Elder abuse in shelters is a topic of concern for members of ACWS.

ACWS has also recommended improvements to RCMP training, which would include risk and danger assessment and discussion on implementing the local working agreements. A committee including representative of ACWS offices, the Crown Prosecutor, the Solicitor General, OPFV trainers, police (RCMP, military police and local police) provided input into the RCMP training modules.

Danger Assessment Training for shelter workers was facilitated by Dr. Jacqueline Campbell, and a

Submitted by Karen Hoover Chair, Education and Training Committee

Committees - Social & Legal Issues Prepared by Lise Blanchette, Chair

As the chairperson for the ACWS Social and Legal Issues Committee, it is my pleasure to present the highlights of our advocacy efforts for the 2003 – 2004 board year.

The Social and Legal Issues Committee monitored and responded to legislative amendments to the Child Welfare Act and was successful in getting two in-house amendments to the new act that refer to family violence passed. In addition, one of our committee members, Jean McBean, prepared an article on the new family law legislation that highlighted the changes and the recognition of family violence as a social issue.

The committee made various submissions on the proposed changes to the federal Divorce Act as it relates to custody and access issues; however, it appears that this initiative has been shelved for the next couple of years.

The committee was involved in a number of ways on the impact of gun control, such as representing the ACWS at the Firearms Centre's consultation in Calgary. We have sent a number of letters to, and initiated meetings with, elected officials and government representatives, such as MP's (especially female MP's), MLA's, the ministers of justice and public security, and the Prime Minister's office.

Committee Members

Lise Blanchette, Chair Lori Phillips Mary Jean Thompson Anita Taylor Heike DeGraff Carol Hicken, Kristine Cassie Pat Vargas Sandra Danco Cecile Lavoie Jean McBean Dawn Nelson Simonne Walsh

With input from our members, the committee prepared a report on the need for second stage housing. Second stage statistics show that 1,868 women were referred to their local housing authority, but the majority of women did not receive assistance. Due to the large demand, very few women who need this second stage of assistance are able to access it, and the housing authority waiting lists leave them few options. Therefore, many women are returning to their abusive relationships.

The committee sent out information to shelters on the new Supports for Independence (SFI) regulations. In addition, ACWS continues to advocate for increased SFI rates and support for women and attended a number of consultations on the new Human Resources Act as it relates to Supports for Independence.

The committee was involved in a review of the RCMP *Memorandum of Understanding* and local working agreements with the shelters. As a result of our discussions with the RCMP, they made minor changes to their training content. The Solicitor General has committed to developing a three-year training program, which will provide consistent training to all police services. We pointed out that military police were not identified as part of their policing committee, and they will now be asked to participate. The first training is geared for September at the Police College here in Edmonton.

The committee collated statistics on Emergency Protection Orders (EPO's) regionally to improve the results, i.e. the number of EPO's implemented and the opportunity for women to work with local authorities in issuing Emergency Protection Orders.

The committee invited members to a number of consultations and kept them informed on the Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying. The committee identified five key components to assist our member shelters in getting ready for their regional roundtable on family violence.

Social change

Solutions

- Early intervention programs for children's groups, day cares, adolescents, seniors.
- A higher priority on adequate funding for public awareness campaigns, including family violence prevention month; build on what ACWS was able to do last year.

Provincial leadership

Solutions

• Establish a Family Violence Commission with clear accountability by funding agencies and government departments.

A collaborative, coordinated community response

Solutions

- Develop a common philosophy and principles for a collaborative, coordinated community model that applies to both governmental and non-governmental agencies.
- Create dedicated positions to support and assist communities in developing their own models and responses for high need, specialized groups (i.e. elder abuse, disabled, same sex, immigrant women, etc.).
- Place a priority on providing supports for people with disabilities within existing programs.
- Recognize shelters as part of a collaborative response team. Shelters have expertise in family violence issues; they are not solely a place to stay.

Services and supports

Solutions

- Update funding and staffing models for women's shelters, including crisis line support, follow-up, outreach, education and legal advocacy.
- There is also a need for specialized shelter programs for children, as well as for child and youth groups across the province, both while in shelter and as follow-up.
- Expand the availability of emergency/safe housing: immediately fund seniors' shelters, develop funding formula for second stage; fund un-funded shelter beds and increase the capacity in areas where people are turned away.
- Provide transitional support: increase funding and ensure that every shelter has second stage referral apartments available in their community.
- Ensure adequate protection services for women and children in abusive relationships. The first priority should be to keep women and children safe.
- Address concerns regarding custody and access disputes; include rebuttal presumption, children's lawyers.
- Fund seven safe visitation centres across the province.
- Ensure that services and supports respond to those affected by family violence and bullying: need for housing, increases in social assistance.
- Ensure fair access to legal aid for women seeking assistance in the family law area. Priority up to now has been on providing legal support in the criminal justice system (which benefits the perpetrator).
- Make changes in the courts and the justice system: sharing of information, treating family violence as a crime.

Accountability

Solutions

- All departments need to track their expenditures and services related to family violence.
- Use common definitions.
- Enforce gun control legislation, charging guidelines.
- Implement stiffer sentences for serial abusers and make perpetrator accountability a priority.

The ACWS Social and Legal Issues Committee is working on behalf of women and families throughout the province. More specifically, that means on behalf of our members who assist women who are in crisis, women who are trying to leave abusive relationships and women who are trying to move on with their lives and become self sufficient. With the ACWS board, provincial coordinator and all the members of ACWS, we will continue to work with organizations across the province and with the Government of Alberta to determine how best to serve our client base and focus on re-evaluating the needs and issues we continue to face with ONE VOICE.

Submitted by Lise Blanchette

Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, Annual Report 2004

Committees—Shelter Programs Prepared by Joie Dery, Chair

Chairperson, ACWS Social and Legal Issues Committee Several initiatives undertaken by the ACWS fall under the Shelter Programs Committee.

Shelter Emergency Fund

Supported by the Anonymous Donor, the Shelter Emergency Fund was set up to enable shelters access to minimal funding to meet the demands of unexpected and/or non-budgeted expenses that might occur, and the shelter is not able to operate without the required repairs or replacement. These expenses are usually for equipment or mechanical systems. Several applications have been funded to date, such as appliances, faulty elevator, security system, and sewer backup. The program was evaluated six months after its' commencement with the anonymous donor staff. It appears to be working well, and at this point is continuing.

Women's Shelter Information System

A very challenging year to say the least! Over the past twelve months, all funded shelters have gone `on-line' with the Canadian Outcomes Institute (COI) for the collection of client statistical information. Strong partnerships have been formed between COI, ACWS, the shelters and the Government The process has not been without many problems! As all parties become

Committee Members

Joie Dery, Chair Marg Luger Moriah Boyd Kathleen Nakagawa Pat Garrett Mary Ann Sanderson Donna Getschel Kathy Sheppard Carolyn Goard Pat Vargas Brenda Hill Sandra Danco Patisi Tailfeathers

more familiar with the system, the definitions, and the procedures, there appears to be a faint light at the end of the tunnel. It has become very evident that there will be a need for ongoing technical support/ training for the program, and that there are still system 'glitches' that need to be worked out. The whole process has been very time consuming, and everyone involved needs to be congratulated for their perseverance and dedication to make this endeavor work the way it is intended to. It will be a marvelous tool to assist all partners!

Compendium of Services

Services provided by all the member shelters were collected and put into a format that can be easily updated. The resulting document is useful to shelter members, the Council, and others seeking information regarding Alberta Shelters. The plan is to update the document on a regular basis.

Shelter Funding

Changes to core funding have occurred over the past year.

- ✓ All shelter contracts (providing core funding) have been removed from their respective regions to one central location, which was done to ensure more consistency of funding across the province.
- Core Funding The government recognized that shelters were having great difficulty in managing to meet the major increases to utility and insurance costs. Based on numbers from the previous year, funding was increased to assist to meet these costs for six months of the year. Unfortunately the costs continue to rise, so shelters are behind again. Adjustments were made to other components of the contracts as well, except in the area of staffing, which had received major increases to all funded positions the year before.

Crisis Lines

The government has requested and received information on shelter operated crisis lines and the staffing and other costs required to maintain these lines. We have received no feed back on this to this point.

Staffing Model

Information was received from all shelters as to what they perceived their staffing needs to be, both by position and by priority. Staffing levels had to be sufficient enough to ensure safe operation according to shelter standards and required legislation. Staffing models have been completed for the Emergency Shelters, Second Stage Shelters, and Seniors Programs. These models are being presented to the government for consideration. Obtaining consensus for the models has been difficult, as shelters vary greatly according to the needs of respective communities. The committee has agreed that some flexibility within the model would be beneficial to all.

Shelter Standards

It has become evident, but really not a surprise, that the operating standards under which shelters are now guided are in severe need of updating and expanding. ACWS and the committee wanted to ensure that our standards fit into the adopted ethical and moral framework. To that end, the Ethics Committee is assisting by reworking the wording and reorganizing our current document, and suggesting additions that may be required. Our goal is to have a set of standards that not only meet, but also surpass government requirements.

Group Insurance

Member shelters are now contributing to the administration costs of this program, which takes a large burden off ACWS staff. These insurance costs are also continuing to rise significantly, both for the staff covered by the program and the employers who contribute to the premiums. The program is currently under review and cost estimates are being sought from other carriers. The intent will be to find most cost-effective program available.

All Shelter Program initiatives require input from the shelters, and the committee appreciates the fabulous cooperation we have had. We would also like to thank the ACWS staff for their countless hours of support and continued input.

ACWS Membership

A Safe Place Awo Taan Native Women's Shelter Bigstone Cree Nation Women's Emergency Shelter, Brenda Strafford Centre **Brigantia** Place Brooks & District Women's Safe Shelter Society Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter Columbus House of Hope **Community Crisis Society** Crossroads Resource Centre Discovery House Family Violence Prevention Society Eagle Women's Emergency Shelter Edmonton Senior Safe Housing Edmonton Women's Shelter Ermineskin Women's Shelter Grande Cache Transition House Hope Haven Society Kerby Centre La Salle Residence Lloydminster Interval Home Lurana Shelter Mikisew Cree First Nation (Paspew House) Odyssey House Peace River Regional Women's Shelter Phoenix Safe House Pincher Creek Women's Emergency Shelter Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre Safe Home Sheriff King Home Sonshine Community Services Sucker Creek Women's Emergency Shelter Taber & District Family Crisis Intervention Society (Safe Haven) Unity House Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre Winas of Providence Yellowhead Emergency Shelter Youville Women's Residence YWCA of Banff YWCA Harbour House

Associate Members

Edmonton John Howard Society Inner City Mission Centre—Women's Dream Centre Mountain Rose Women's Shelter Association

Sherwood Park Calgary Wabasca Calgary Camrose Brooks Calgary **Red Deer** St. Paul Strathmore Fairview Calgary **Black Diamond** Edmonton Edmonton Maskwaci Grande Cache Lac La Biche Calgary Edmonton Lloydminster Edmonton Fort Chipeywan Grande Prairie **Peace River** Medicine Hat **Pincher Creek** Cold Lake **High Level** Calgary Calgary Enilda Taber Fort McMurray Whitecourt Edmonton Hinton Calgary Banff

Edmonton Edmonton Rocky Mountain House

Lethbridge

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ACWS — Staff

Jan Reimer, Provincial Coordinator Patricia Poohachoff, Communications & Partnership Specialist Maureen Watson, Office Administartor

ACWS — Funders

Alberta Children's Services Status of Women Wild Rose Foundation Muttart Foundation IODE & an Anonymous Donor

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