



Annual Report 2009-2010

*"I'm beginning to see a different journey."
- woman in shelter in Hobbema
during Data Count day 2009*

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
Pat Vargas, Secretary
Lois Day, Treasurer
Brigitte Baradoy
Sandra Ermineskin Janene Moch
Lorne Goddard David Monroe
Marj Luger Cassie Putman
Sister Joanne MacAulay Edna Willier

ACWS STAFF (2009-2010)

Jan Reimer, Provincial Coordinator
Carolyn Goard, Director of Member Programs and Services
Charleen Shaw, Office Administrator
Ken Seto, Finance and Information Management
Christie Lavan, Communications and Partnerships
Dorothy Sam, Project Manager, *Walking the Path Together*

Quotations found throughout this report are borrowed from the inaugural Alberta Data Count day, November 25 2009 and are from shelter staff all over Alberta.

"A young pregnant client with limited resources, financially dependent, feels that her only option is to return to her abusive boyfriend who left her to live with his ex and their 4 month old baby." WHITECOURT



Photos in this report are a graphic sampling of different types of housing and are not actual shelters.

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“Today required a lot of collaboration between Children’s Services and staff. The issues needing to be addressed were regarding the parent-child relationships and the effects of family violence.”
EDMONTON

“Today I helped a woman get a restraining order, after 33 years of abuse. This is the women who said she felt like her soul had been raped. She looked at me today and said, ‘things are good.’”
CALGARY

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“A worker transported a client and her child to an interview for second stage housing. The client was filled with excitement and the hopes of what might be a better life. Unfortunately before she was able to enter the program, her family convinced her to return to the reserve.” WHITECOURT



“(My client) lives with subtle but concrete death threats everyday. Every single group night, I wait for her to come to group, because then I know she is okay.” CALGARY



1. Leadership Messages

ACWS PRESIDENT

ACWS has been a catalyst on many fronts. Our successful call to host the second world conference of women's shelters yielded four strong contenders. We are now looking forward to building on the success of the first world conference, organized by ACWS in 2008. The second conference will be in Washington, D.C. in 2012. Ensuring that the 'passing of the torch' took place was a major accomplishment on the part of ACWS in the last year, as was our role in the founding of a Global Network of Women's Shelters.

As a result of meetings held in Ottawa in support of the World Conference, we were fortunate enough to gain funding for the establishment of a National network of shelters in Canada, for which ACWS is the fiscal agent. Jan Reimer and other leaders in this group were responsible for the hiring of Tracy Gierman, as the Executive Director headquartered in Ottawa. This cooperative initiative will share shelter practices across the country and build the shelter movement.

On the home front, our ongoing cooperative working relationships between ACWS and Alberta Children and Youth Services (ACYS) was continued with the Long Term Working Group providing input to the provincial government initiative to move to outcome based funding. Members of this hard-working committee are:



Barb Young, ACWS President

Sherrie Botten (Rowan House, Black Diamond), Karen Pease (Wheatland Shelter, Strathmore), Jean Dunbar (YWCA Sheriff King Home, Calgary), Jennifer Gullage (Safe Haven, Taber), Cassie Putnam (Hope Haven, Lac La Biche), Sister Lucinda Mae Patterson (Lurana Shelter, Edmonton), Darlene Lightning-Mason/Nora Lee Rear (On Reserve Shelters), Barb Young (ACWS) Carolyn Goard (ACWS), Kathleen Gorman (ACYS) and Pat Hagemann (ACYS).

Some of the additional accomplishments that benefited the shelters in Alberta were:

- Review of all data base software for shelter use to replace HOMES. The cancellation of support and management for the software was announced in December. With an enormous effort on the part of the team led by Carolyn Goard a recommendation on a replacement software was made by April and the implementation process initiated. Work will continue in

this regard to assist in promoting a smooth transition and to ensuring that the requirements of both ACWS and ACYS are met.

ACWS Ad Hoc Software Selection/Implementation Committee Members: Pam Desjarlais/Bev McCharles (Rocky Mountain House), Susanna Daniels/Leanne Van Loon (Pincher Creek Women's Shelter), Dianne Finch (Medicine Hat Shelter Society), Tracey Lamb (Fort McMurray Unity House), Ed Rogers (Discovery House, Calgary), Karen Pease (Wheatland Shelter, Strathmore), Lissa Samantaraya-Shivji/Chandra Martini (CWES, Calgary), Kathy Sheppard/Karen Hollingsworth (Odyssey House), Lisa Morgan/Yvette Houle (Dr. Margaret Savage, Cold Lake), Patti Smeenk (Peace River Women's Shelter), Anita Taylor (Red Deer Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter), Cynthia Wild/Christine Hall (YWCA Sheriff King Home, Calgary), Noreen Cotton/Leonie Amyotte (Columbus House of Hope), Barb Young (ACWS), Carolyn Goard (ACWS) and Irene Hoffart (ACWS Consultant).

- A delay of one year in the cut in funding announced by the federal government for on-reserve shelters was achieved. Efforts will continue to advocate for no reduction in the future.
- Stollery Foundation support was obtained for children accessing Edmonton Shelters.

- Numerous training sessions with respect to Danger Assessment, Aboriginal Awareness, Trauma, General Cultural Competency and others were carried out with ongoing input from the Shelter Programs and Education Committee.

- Support was provided to participating shelters in the *Practical Framework for Change* Project.

- The *Walking the Path* project was initiated with on-reserve shelters in Alberta.

Barbara Young
ACWS President

“Clients find it very difficult to “get around” to secure housing, etc., since our town has no public transit.”

LLOYDMINSTER



Jan Reimer,
ACWS Provincial Coordinator

PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR

2009-10 saw ACWS partner with sheltering agencies near and far.

Here in Alberta, we completed our action-based research on the use of the Danger Assessment with 9 Alberta shelters. This project also gave birth to an exciting partnership with Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, as ACWS became the only organization other than hers that is able to offer certification based training in the Danger Assessment tool. And even more exciting, our training curriculum is specific to shelter needs!

Building on the learnings from the still talked about World Conference of Women's shelters, 8 Alberta shelters are pioneering and evaluating new approaches in supporting women that have brought in partnerships with Legal Aid and ITRAC (Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre).

Last summer, we began a joint 3-year project with Alberta's five on-reserve shelters, the London Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System and Dr. Campbell to design specialized interventions for

"Each time we hear a woman's story, we are reminded how strong and how much courage they have to survive everyday."

LETHBRIDGE

children living on-reserve who are exposed to domestic violence. The intervention tools designed from this *Walking the Path Together* project will assist all Alberta shelters.

Drawing attention to the abuse of older adults can be a difficult journey. We were pleased to receive funding from Alberta Seniors and Community Supports to design a community development model for the intervention and prevention of Elder Abuse with partners from the Alberta Elder Abuse Network and our two member seniors' shelters.

And in Edmonton, shelters began a partnership with the Family Centre to provide a child psychologist to shelters to assist young children and their mothers deal with the aftermath of domestic violence. We are midway in our partnership with the Health Sciences Association of Alberta as we develop our *Domestic Violence in the Workplace* toolkit. The primary focus of our partnership with Alberta Children and Youth Services this last year has been to design a new outcome-based funding model - forging new ground in the way shelters are funded.

Further afield, we were delighted to host an international gathering of women's shelter organizations in Ottawa last spring to found the *Global Network of Women's Shelters*. Our first collaborative effort was

the global data count and Alberta shelters were very effective in pulling together to paint a picture of the day in the life of Alberta shelters.

We were also pleased to become the fiscal agent for the *Uniting to End Violence Against Women* network, which brings sheltering organizations together from across Canada to exchange knowledge and practice for the benefit of all women in our country.

None of this would have been possible without the strong support of our membership and our small but mighty staff team at ACWS. Together, we can build a world free from violence and abuse. I would like to thank Carolyn Goard, Charleen Shaw, Ken Seto, Christie Lavan and Dorothy Sam for the amazing effort, expertise – as well as heart and soul – that they have poured into these projects, as well as the ongoing operations of ACWS.

Jan Reimer
Provincial Coordinator, ACWS



“It’s shocking how much children internalize the family violence they have experienced.” HINTON

2. Committee Reports

BOARD GOVERNANCE

The governance committee has had a busy year, and I would like to thank Lois Day, Pat Vargas, Barbara Young, Carolyn Goard and Jan Reimer for the support, commitment and sound common sense that they have brought to the table to ensure that we were able to achieve all that we did.

Strategic Planning

During the first part of the 2009-2010 year, much attention was given by the committee to the updating of the Strategic Plan for ACWS. At the beginning of August 2009, the whole Board had met together to review the previous year's strategic plan, identify what had been accomplished and to consider whether the goals and intended outcomes that had been set the previous year were still valid. The Board also looked at challenges and opportunities created by changes in the external environment and also within ACWS and its member shelters.

Within this framework, the Governance committee set to work and drafted a new strategic plan that was presented to the Board at its November meeting. Some minor changes were requested and were incorporated by the Governance Committee into the final version that was accepted at the following Board meeting in March 2010.



Policy Development

1. Policy on gifts of securities to ACWS

Following the elimination of capital gains tax on the appreciation in value on donations of publicly traded securities that occurred in 2006, gifts of securities to charitable organizations is becoming an attractive way to make a charitable donation and a great way for donors to make a greater impact with their gift. In order to be able to take advantage of this, however, the charitable organization needs to have a trading account and set up policies to handle the transfers. The governance committee put forward a new policy and procedure to meet this end that was approved by the Board in November.

2. Policy on family violence in the workplace

ACWS has been working to create a model policy on family violence in the workplace that shelters can incorporate into their policies. The governance committee has recommended and the Board has accepted that this policy be incorporated into ACWS's own policy manual.

Policy Updating

A number of amendments to operational policies were recommended by the governance committee and approved by the Board in order to ensure suitable processes are in place to facilitate Board and office operation.

ACWS Position Statement

ACWS has drafted a position statement outlining reasons why it is urging that the Alberta government set up a Domestic Violence Death Review Committee. The governance committee looked at several other jurisdictions in the United Kingdom, in the USA and in Canada, primarily Ontario, that have already set up similar committees and was impressed with the recommendations stemming from their work. On its recommendation, the Board has approved the position statement.

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
Committee Chair

Board Governance Committee Members:
David Monroe, Pat Vargas, Barbara Young and Lois Day.

“We have had a success story! One of our repeat clients (many, many admissions) has broken the cycle! She has rented an apartment and stated she, “can’t believe how good life can be!”

LLOYDMINSTER

ON-RESERVE

We have had many challenges since this committee’s inception in 2003 however; we have also had many successes. As on-reserve shelters in Alberta we have strived to provide quality programs and services that include our cultural resources and practices; provide the highest standard of shelter facilities that meet staff and client needs; and take a proactive approach to preventing family violence.

This year we saw the success of the approval for the grant for the *Walking the Path* Project. The program is funded jointly between the Alberta Government Safe Communities Innovation Fund and the National Crime Prevention Centre with the Government of Canada. Five Eagle Feather Workers were hired for each of the on reserve shelters.

In March 2010 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada served notices that there would be significant funding cuts to Alberta on-reserve shelters. The shelters were not informed with the realignment of funding for the 2010-2011 budget year. We were informed these reductions were based on the new national formula for the Family Violence Prevention Program with Indian and Northern Affairs. There was no consultation with the Chiefs and Councils who sign these agreements or with the on-reserve shelter Directors regarding this new funding formula.

Demand for services has steadily increased over the past few years for all of the on-reserve shelters. When we received this notice in March of 2010 just prior to the new fiscal budget year we had little time to amend our plans for operations.

We addressed these concerns in a press release which was held in Edmonton, Alberta, and addressing our issues at the Treaty

"I love the work we do helping the women and their children."

FORT CHIPEWYAN

Six, Seven, and Eight Summit in Calgary, Alberta. Jan Reimer, Provincial Coordinator and the other on-reserve shelter Directors were contacted by other media resources.

In a May 11, 2010 meeting we were informed by INAC that the 2010-2011 funding allocation would be amended. Mr. Grant Britton, Director for First Nations Relations, INAC, assured the Directors that our budgets would be adjusted and restored until a new business plan was developed for the Alberta region.

Sandra wants to acknowledge ACWS for their continued support for helping us face the many challenges and creating a new path for On-Reserve Shelters.

Sandra Ermineskin

On-Reserve Committee Member

On-Reserve Committee Members:

Janet Gladue, Virginia Cardinal, Nora-Lee Rear, Solomon Yellowknee, Sandra G. Ermineskin, Andrea Mackinaw, Mary Simpson, Darlene Lightning-Mattson and Edna Willier.

"It can be difficult to find safe and affordable housing for seniors, and government subsidy programs for single adults under 65 is not sufficient to afford market rental (plus basic needs)."

EDMONTON

SHELTER PROGRAMS & EDUCATION (SPEC)

Front-line Training

Trauma Informed Interventions in Direct Service Settings, provided by Natalie Zlodre, took place September 8 & 9, 2009 and 80 individuals from 22 shelters participated.

In March 2010, Dr. Martin Brokenleg presented a workshop on the Circle of Courage that was attended by 108 people from ACWS and beyond!

The curriculum for the Danger Assessment commenced development last summer and the inaugural training session was completed in Edmonton in January with 20 attendees from across the province. The first Train-the-trainer workshop for the Danger Assessment was extended to 37 shelter staff in May this year, and we've heard reports that a number of newly trained Trainers have conducted their own sessions back at their shelters already! Danger Assessment certification is available through ACWS in partnership with Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell.

The Women's Shelter Leadership Bursary Program continues to provide individual and group opportunities for leadership training. This past year, four applications were received; three were approved, totaling \$14,640.



Plans for another group leadership training opportunity are underway.

Child care funding provided by ACYS will support the development, integration & evaluation of promising child support practices across Alberta over the next year. This project will be undertaken in partnership with Alberta shelters and Mount Royal University.

The Shelter Director's Manual and Shelter Orientation Manual have both been developed and are in the process of being revised and will soon be available to the membership.

Karen Pease

Chair, Education and Training Committee

SPEC Committee Members:

Karen Pease, Marj Luger, Kathleen Nakagawa, Jennifer Gullage, Pat Garrett and Pat Vargas.



“We have a repeat family. We’ve had the mother in here and now we’ve had the daughter come in with the grandchildren - so we are seeing an intergenerational thing. We have seen so many women in the family.” CALGARY

SHELTER SYSTEMS INFORMATION (SIC)

The 2009-2010 year once again brought change for the Shelter Systems Information Committee. We said good-bye to two long-time members who contributed their skill and dedication to the work SIC does on behalf of shelters. Dianne Finch of Medicine Hat Women’s Shelter Society resigned from the SIC, as she moved into the interim Executive Director position at MHWSS covering a maternity leave. Dianne’s in-depth knowledge of database systems and advanced skill in data analysis supported shelters to increase their ability to use their data to advocate for themselves. Dianne taught advanced data download to shelters at the annual HOMES training and lent her expertise in data analysis skills to the Danger Assessment research and the analysis of over 500 sets of data!

We also said goodbye to Lenora Wiebe of Sunshine Community Services. Lenora joined SIC representing the voice of second stage shelters in Alberta and their unique data collection and evaluation needs. Though Sunshine was not on HOMES at the time, Lenora’s perspective was insightful, continually grounding the SIC in how our work could best benefit shelters and increase capacity. Lenora took on the role of HOMES training level one, and applied this knowledge into leading her own shelter onto the system in 2009. The SIC welcomed Karen Pease, Executive Director of Wheatland Crisis Shelter Society, as the ACWS board designate, and Carolyn Goad as the ACWS representative.

The Danger Assessment research project results were released in June 2009 and

a final project report written by ACWS. This was followed up by presentations in London, Ontario at the first annual Canadian Conference on the prevention of Domestic Homicides and in Los Angeles at the Battered Women's Justice Project. Though the research project may be over, the recommendations from the report are already being put into action. ACWS has spearheaded the adaptation of Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell's Danger Assessment presentation to a Canadian context and fully developed a training protocol complete with materials, and will continue to work on realizing the other research recommendations.

Perhaps the most profound change for the SIC was the (surprise) November announcement from Canadian Outcomes Research Institute that the HOMES database would be closing its doors on March 31, 2010, suspending service to all its clients. This move profoundly affected shelters; but ACWS was quick to advocate for an extension that would give SIC and other member shelters the time to develop next steps.

"Today the RCMP brought us a woman (and her daughter) being discharged from hospital. Her common-law had been released from jail and was back in the community waiting for his court date. The extent of her injuries was disturbing." LAC LA BICHE

Under Carolyn's direction, committees were formed to search out an alternate database that would not only meet Alberta shelters current needs for data collection and analysis, but support capacity building over time. Thorough examination of available databases led to the recommendation of Outcome Tracker, a web-based management system that allows for measure-

ment and reporting on data and outcomes, as well as case management.

The SIC continues to stay involved in the next critical steps that will assist women's shelters in switching platforms and moving onto Outcome Tracker, creating the means to transfer information into the new system and baseline for data collection, facilitating training and on-going support in using the system long-term.

Lissa Samantaraya-Shivji
Committee Chair

SIC Committee Members:
*Lissa Samantaraya-Shivji, Karen Pease,
Pat Garrett and Patti Smeenk.*



SOCIAL, LEGAL and ETHICAL ISSUES COMMITTEE (SLEC)

Over the last year, SLEC focused on review and approval of two documents. One was the evaluation plan for the *Practical Frameworks for Change* project and the other was a report entitled *Measuring Progress: After the Roundtable*.

In the first case, the committee reviewed the evaluation plan to ensure ethical concerns were clearly addressed in the document. For example, we looked to see that procedures for informed client consent

to participate in the project were included. The plan's primary focus was how the use of the DVSA (Domestic Violence Survivor Assessment) and Danger Assessment tool impacted client's safety, health, and perception of the program's cultural competence. Measures included the aforementioned, as well as demographics and history information, a safety plan, the client's ability to access services and the Exit Survey. A recommendation to accept the plan was made to the ACWS Board of Directors.

In the second case, the committee reviewed the report "Measuring Progress: After the Roundtable" with the purpose of recommending it to the Board as an appropriate communication from the ACWS office, as well as a dissemination plan. The report examined the progress made, and what still remains to be done in Alberta to address domestic violence. Also identified were the barriers that women face when leaving abusive relationships, such as: a lack of safe and affordable housing, legal assistance and financial support and failure by police and other service providers to recognize the women's risk of re-assault and/or death and threats to their children.

It has been proven, through generous amounts of research, that women find shelter services to be extremely helpful in providing support, safety and assistance. Furthermore, shelters have reported progress on areas such as bullying, funding for basic necessities, regional coordination, (though shelter directors identified the lack of resources), progress and accountability for making change. It has been proposed that shelters begin a process of gaining a better understanding of women's rights and improving conditions for abused women and their children.

After review, the SLEC committee recommended that the report should be provided to several stakeholders on a phased-in

basis. The stakeholders included: ACWS Membership, Provincial Government and then the Federal Government and other organizations (i.e. Human Rights, Sexual assault, 2nd Stage Shelters organization, Provincial organizations and Professional associations such as Social Workers) and the Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The committee also recommended that the membership assess progress made on an annual basis as part of the AGM/shelter directors meetings.

Brigitte Baradoy
Committee Chair

SLEC Committee Members:

Brigitte Baradoy, Lorne Goddard, Mike Dickinson, Jean Pettifor and Julie Coleman.



“One of our counsellors drove her client to the lawyers to pick up some of her belongings that have been left there by her former perpetrator. Things were packed into broken bags and (were) very distasteful, pitiful and difficult for the client to experience.” CALGARY

On November 25, 2009, **693** women and **617** children seeking safety from domestic violence were helped by Alberta shelters.

Of the **693** women helped, **29** were pregnant.

-ACWS Data Count 2009

“An immigrant family stayed with the shelter over the 21 days before securing housing, however her four children are not wanting to leave the shelter due to the comfort and safety level that has been provided during their stay.” LETHBRIDGE

Skolney & Company

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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, 2010 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, 2010 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

May 25, 2010
Edmonton, Alberta



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MARCH 31, 2010

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2 and 6)	1,258,997	765,602
<u>Accounts receivable</u>	<u>23,285</u>	<u>275,406</u>
	1,282,282	1,041,008
LONG TERM INVESTMENT – at cost	-	9,780
<u>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Notes 2 and 4)</u>	<u>18,426</u>	<u>12,234</u>
	<u>1,300,708</u>	<u>1,063,022</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	6,894	2,561
Unexpended grants (Note 3)	823,093	617,196
<u>Deferred contributions related to operations</u>	<u>6,347</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>836,334</u>	<u>619,757</u>
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	325,498	285,006
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS (Note 5)	120,450	137,702
<u>INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>18,426</u>	<u>20,557</u>
	<u>464,374</u>	<u>443,265</u>
	<u>1,300,708</u>	<u>1,063,022</u>

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

_____ Director

_____ Director

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

	2010			2009	
	Investment in Property and Equipment \$	Internally Restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	Total \$	Total \$
BALANCE, beginning of year	20,557	137,702	285,006	443,265	356,303
Excess (Deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-	38,361	38,361	86,962
Transfers from reserves (Note 5)	-	(17,252)	-	(17,252)	-
Investment in property and equipment	(2,131)	-	2,131	-	-
BALANCE, end of year	18,426	120,450	325,498	464,374	443,265

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
REVENUES		
Grants (Schedule 1)	984,201	770,959
Registration and workshop fees	15,096	488,180
Government of Alberta	250,000	235,796
Donations	143,104	173,999
Status of Women Canada	30,000	65,000
Fundraising	32,960	37,293
Membership fees	28,550	27,450
Interest and other income	10,867	21,777
Book sales	-	11,732
Casino revenue	80,240	-
Donations in kind	-	-
<u>Amortization of deferred contributions</u>	-	2,000
	<u>1,575,018</u>	<u>1,834,186</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Program expenses	308,421	862,044
Wages and employee benefits	796,546	516,998
Office and miscellaneous	246,415	151,976
Recruitment and training	70,038	97,476
Occupancy costs	42,895	32,916
Annual General Meeting	14,295	26,541
Shelter Emergency Distributions	13,647	21,675
Repairs and maintenance	20,708	15,498
Professional fees	4,971	5,120
Newsletter and brochures	3,153	4,995
Telephone	7,790	4,951
Loss on shares	662	2,826
Insurance	1,930	2,511
Casino expense	-	114
<u>Amortization</u>	5,186	3,583
	<u>1,536,657</u>	<u>1,749,224</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>38,361</u>	<u>84,962</u>

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenditures for the year	38,361	86,962
Items not affecting cash-		
Amortization of property and equipment	5,186	3,583
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	-	(2,000)
Change in non-cash working capital items -		
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	252,121	(257,074)
Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions	6,347	(29,347)
Increase (decrease) in unexpended grants	205,811	24,915
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	4,419	(27,822)
Decrease (increase) in inventory	-	12,732
	<u>512,245</u>	<u>(188,771)</u>
Net change in non-cash working capital components:		
Prepaid expenses	-	19,397
FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Transfers from reserves	(17,252)	(75,650)
Long term Investment	9,780	2,826
Purchase of property and equipment (net)	(11,378)	-
	<u>(18,850)</u>	<u>(72,824)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	493,395	(242,198)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	765,602	1,007,800
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	<u>1,258,997</u>	<u>765,602</u>

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) was incorporated under the Societies Act of the Province of Alberta on April 11, 1983. The Council is a registered charity and is exempt from income tax under the provisions of paragraph 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act. The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters works to

- develop a coordinated, collaborative response to family violence;
- coordinate funding and improve services in order to better meet the needs of abused women, their children and abused seniors;
- educate the public and professionals about prevention of, and responses to, spousal and senior abuse, and
- initiate, conduct and/or participate in research relating to the causes, impacts, prevention of family violence, and elimination of violence against women, children and seniors.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

(A) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents is comprised of cash held in the corporate bank accounts and savings accounts.

(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, 2010**

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(C) Equipment

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

Office	20%
Computer	33 1/3%

(D) Deferred Contributions Related to Equipment –

Deferred contributions related to equipment are amortized to revenue on the same basis as the asset to which the contribution relates.

(E) Inventory –

Inventory is recorded at the lower of cost or net realizable value.

(F) 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.

(G) Investments –

Investments are recorded at the lower of amortized cost and market value.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS

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

A. Children Exposed To Family Violence

In a prior year, the Council received funds from the Government of Alberta to develop a curriculum and provide training to shelter workers, child welfare workers and community stakeholders on children exposed to violence so as to reduce the negative impact on children at risk. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$29,207. No funds were expended on the project during the year and the unexpended portion at March 31, 2010 was \$29,207. Of the \$29,207, \$22,500 is committed to be utilized in FY 10-11.

B. PFVB - Education

In a prior the year, the Council received \$100,000 from Alberta Children's Services to develop and provide training to front line shelter staff. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$92,093. During the year, \$87,122 was expended. The unexpended balance at March 31, 2010 was \$4,971.

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 \$284,258. During the year, the opening balance was increased by \$19,282 and \$15,952 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at year end of \$287,588.

D. Workplace Violence – HSAA

In the 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 \$57,279. During the year, the Council received \$52,500 and expended \$54,511 on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2010 for \$55,268.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010**

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

E. International Network Women's Shelter

In a prior year, the Council received \$27,900 to host an International Meeting in Ottawa to develop an International Women's Shelter Network. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$14,852. During the year additional funding of \$41,607 was received and \$54,481 was expended leaving an unexpended balance of \$1,977 at March 31, 2010.

F. Practical Frameworks for Change

In a prior year, the Council received \$173,832 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 \$75,122. During the year, the Council received additional funding of \$119,946 and \$149,267 was expended leaving an unexpended balance of \$45,801 at March 31, 2010.

G. IODE – Training Fund

In the 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 \$16,946. During the year, \$4,500 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$12,446 at March 31, 2010.

H. Walking The Path Together - NCPC

During the prior year, the Council received \$330,408 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, \$330,408 was expended on the project leaving a \$0 balance at March 31, 2010.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010**

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

I. Walking The Path Together - SCIF

In the prior year, the Council received \$286,111 from the Safe Communities Initiative Fund to mitigate the cycle of violence for Aboriginal children in the five Alberta on reserve shelters. During the year, \$87,693 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$198,418 at March 31, 2010.

J. Elder Abuse

During the year, the Council received \$50,000 to develop an elder abuse prevention and intervention model. During the year, \$43,069 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$6,931 at March 31, 2010.

K. Taking a Stand

During the 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. During the year, \$175 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$40,700 at March 31, 2010.

L. Child Care

During the year, the Council received \$55,000 to support building provincial capacity for shelter staff to meet the needs of families and children who have experienced family violence. During the year, no funds were expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$55,000 at March 31, 2010.

M. Trend Analysis in AB Shelters

During the year, the Council received \$10,000 to analyze the impact of socio-economic trends and patterns on demands for shelter services. During the year, no funds were expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$10,000 at March 31, 2010.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010**

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

N. Canadian Women's Foundation – Practical Frameworks

During the year, the Council received \$25,000 to provide a two day intensive training on using the Domestic Violence Survivor Assessment (DVSA) to shelter staff. During the year, \$23,549 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$1,451 at March 31, 2010.

O. Stollery

During the 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. During the year, no funds were expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$50,000 at March 31, 2010.

P. Uniting to End Violence

During the year, the Council received \$27,697 to bring together provincial/territorial shelter organizations across Canada to improve the access to, and quality of, services for women who are in abusive situations. During the year, \$21,756 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$5,941 at March 31, 2010.

Q. National Crime Prevention Week Fund

During the year, the Council received \$10,000 to draw attention to awareness activities for Victims of Crime Awareness week using life sized silhouettes. During the year, \$2,606 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$7,394 at March 31, 2010.

R. Global Secretariat

At the end of March 2010, the Council received \$10,000 to unite the women's shelter movement globally to end violence against women and their children. During the year, no funds were expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance of \$10,000 at March 31, 2010.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	2010		2009	
	Cost \$	Accumulated Amortization \$	Net Book Value \$	Net Book Value \$
Office equipment	\$48,558	\$32,524	\$16,034	\$10,137
Computer equipment	17,591	15,199	2,392	2,097
	<u>\$66,149</u>	<u>\$47,723</u>	<u>\$18,426</u>	<u>\$12,234</u>

During the year, the Council purchased a photocopier for \$17,856 along with other capital assets of \$3,573 for total purchases of \$21,429. The Board approved the transfer of \$10,052 from the equipment reserve account to be applied against the cost of the purchases.

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.

	2010 \$	2009 \$
(a) Stabilization reserve		
The Council has established a stabilization reserve to hold three months of operating expenses. There was no contribution to the reserve in the current year.	52,000	52,000
(b) Equipment replacement reserve		
The Council has established an equipment replacement reserve in order to replace office equipment as it becomes necessary. Each year the Board of Directors will assess an appropriate amount to be allocated to the reserve.	-	10,052
(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.	68,450	75,650
	<u>120,450</u>	<u>137,702</u>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN’S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010**

6. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Funds gained from a Casino event are placed in a separate bank account. These funds, which total \$67,512 at year end, are restricted in that they may be used for expenses related to operating the charitable gaming event as well as for the purposes stated in the charity’s gaming license application. The past license indicated that the funds would be used for occupational costs as well as costs associated with the creation and distribution of the agency’s newsletter.

7. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Council 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.

8. COMMITMENT

The Council rents premises under an operating lease which expires February 28, 2012. Annual rentals under this lease for each year until the lease expires are as follows:

2011	14,319
2012	13,126

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

9. FUTURE CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

Section 4400, Financial Statement Presentation by Not-For-Profit Organizations

Recent amendments to Section 4400 of the Handbook of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, *Financial Statement Presentation by Not-For-Profit Organizations* will modify the requirements with respect to various elements of financial statement presentation. These amendments include the following:

- Reporting certain revenues gross in the statement of operations;
- Making Section 1540, *Cash Flow* Statements applicable to not-for-profit organizations;
- When a not-for-profit organization classifies its expenses by function and allocates some of its fundraising and general support costs to another function, disclosing the policy adopted for expenses and amounts allocated from each of these two functions to other functions; and
- The elimination of the requirement to treat net assets invested in capital assets as a separate component of net assets.

The new standard will apply to the financial statements relating to the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011 for the Council. This standard will impact the Council's disclosures provided but will not affect the Council's results or financial position.

10. MANAGEMENT OF CAPITAL

The Council defines its capital as its net assets.

The Council's objectives when managing capital are to meet its financial obligations and to safeguard the ability to continue operations as a going concern.

There were no changes to the Council's overall capital management approach during the current year.

The Council's administrative operations are funded annually by grants and donations. The Board of Directors reviews and approves the Council's annual budget, and monitors the financial results to ensure that expenditures are appropriate relative to the available funds.

SCHEDULE 1

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
GRANT SCHEDULE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010**

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Walking The Path Together – NCPC	330,408	-
Practical Frameworks for Change Operations/Council	149,267	98,710
Walking The Path Together – SCIF	103,997	750
PFVB- Education Program	87,693	-
Workplace Violence - HSAA	87,121	7,907
International Network Women's Elder Abuse	54,511	42,722
CWF Practical Frameworks	54,481	-
United to End Violence	43,069	-
Danger Assessment – CIF	23,549	-
IODE – Crisis Training	21,756	-
National Crime Prevention Week	21,347	80,209
Domestic Violence in Workplace	4,500	14,400
CWF – Second Stage	2,606	-
Taking a Stand	1,993	9,923
World Conference	911	7,229
International Network Women's Shelter	175	-
Shelter Emergency	-	375,154
Human Resource Strategy	-	13,048
Children Exposed to Family Violence – Children's Services	-	8,675
Education Fund – IODE	-	2,460
<u>Bursary Program – Children's Services (recovery)</u>	(3,183)	476
	-	-
	<u>984,201</u>	<u>770,959</u>

4. Our Supporters

We would like to thank all our supporters - we couldn't do it without you! Here are some of our major partners from 2009-2010:

Alberta Children and Youth Services
 Alberta Lottery Fund
 Alberta Federation of Labour
 Alberta Seniors and Community Supports
 Alberta Union of Public Employees
 Butler Family Foundation
 Canada Brokerlink Incorporated
 Canadian Women's Foundation
 City of Edmonton
 Community Incentive Fund
 DeVine Wines and Spirits
 Downtown Business Association Edmonton
 Edmonton Community Foundation
 Hotchkiss Foundation
 Give Me Shelter Campaign & Global TV
 Glenna Russell
 Health Sciences Association of Alberta
 National Crime Prevention Centre
 Original Joe's
 Prairieaction Foundation
 Professional Locksmiths Association of Alberta
 Royal Alexandra Employee Foundation
 Safe Communities Secretariat
 Sex and the E-City Event & Campaign
 South Edmonton Business Association
 Spark Sport Conditioning
 Status of Women Canada
 Stollery Foundation
 Sutton Place Hotel
 Telus Foundation
 The Law Show, University of Alberta
 United Way
 Union 52 Benevolent Society



“A client was so overwhelmed, down and angry at the whole process of finding housing. She really had a breakthrough moment and was so proud of the work she had accomplished when she received notice of approval of subsidized housing. With the support of staff the client realized that she has done the work for herself.” WHITECOURT

