

Alberta

Council of

Women's

Shelters

1996 -  
1997

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## *MISSION STATEMENT*

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### We Believe

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

### Our Areas of Concern

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

### Our Focus

- *abused women and their families*

### Our Purpose

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

### Our Goals

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

# ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1997  
at 6:30 PM**

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

**Le Gueridon Room**

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6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Guest Speaker: Brenda McDonald**

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

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Buffet Dinner

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order - President, Jean Langdon
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1996 Annual General Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
  - ◆ Audited Financial Statement
  - ◆ Appointment of Auditor for 1997-1998
5. Acceptance of 1996-1997 Annual Report
6. Nominations Report - Election of Officers
7. Adjournment

# ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

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## GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1997**

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

**Alexandria Room**

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

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Announcements
4. Approval of Minutes from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1997
5. Business Arising from Minutes
6. Correspondence
7. Formation of Committees
8. Committee Reports
9. Provincial Coordinator's Report
10. Director's Meeting Report
11. Other Business
12. Dates for 1997 Council Meetings
13. Adjournment

# ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1996  
Edmonton, Alberta

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

ATTENDEES	
Arlene Chapman	Alberta Council of Women's Shelters
Alice Cardinal	Bigstone Cree Nation Women's Emergency Shelter
Karen Blase	Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter
Diana Aspe-Ayer	Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter
Cheryl Woldike	Camrose Women's Shelter
Cecile Lavoie	Columbus House of Hope
Jean Langdon	Discovery House
Ione Challborn	Edmonton Women's Shelter Ltd.
Sharlene Campbell	Harbour House - YWCA Lethbridge
Vedna McGill	Harbour House - YWCA Lethbridge
Rhonda Breitreuz	Lurana Shelter
Gerry Carter	Medicine Hat Women's Shelter
Kathleen MacPhail	Medicine Hat Women's Shelter
Bev Moylan	Odyssey House
Valerie Hawkins	Peace River Regional Women's Shelter
Pat Kulscar	Safe Home Network
Lorna Culliton	Unity House
Mariella Sneddon	Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Center
Joanne Moran	Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Center
Rose-Marie McCarthy	Wings of Providence
Marj Luger	Yellowhead Emergency Shelter
Lesley Strong	Yellowhead Emergency Shelter
Guests:	Suzanne Sauve, from Status of Women Canada - Women's Program Pat Vargas, ECAFV Coordinator Christine Ennes, - Guest Speaker
Absent:	Calgary Native Women's Shelter Society Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter Crossroads Resource Centre Grande Cache Transition House Society Hope Haven Society Lloydminster Interval Home Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre Strathcona Shelter Society Sucker Creek Women's Emergency Shelter Unity House, Fort McMurray Wheatland Communities Crisis Society
Staff:	Arlene Chapman, Provincial Coordinator, ACWS Flavia Bourne, Administrative Assistant/Coordinator, ACWS

# ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

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Prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting, Jean Langdon introduced and welcomed all the guests. Arlene Chapman introduced the guest speaker, Christine Ennes.

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM by President, Jean Langdon.

## **Quorum Was Not Present**

**Motion** THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED FOR 15 MINUTES.

Moved by: Pat Kulscar  
Seconded: Leslie Strong  
Carried.

Meeting reconvened at 12:05 PM with quorum present.

**Approval of Agenda** - Pat Kulscar added ACWS by-laws to the Agenda at the discretion of the Council.

**Motion** THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by: Lorna Culliton  
Seconded: Pat Kulscar  
Carried.

## **Approval of Minutes of June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1995 Annual General Meeting**

**Motion** THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1995 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BE APPROVED.

Moved by: Rose-Marie McCarthy  
Seconded: Pat Kulscar  
Carried.

**Treasurer's Report** - Rose-Marie McCarthy reports the following:

- ◆ ACWS is showing a surplus
- ◆ Money needs to be put aside and a Reserve Fund set up as well as a contingency fund which the Finance Committee will be responsible for, therefore, I put forward the following motions:

**Motion** ROSE-MARIE McCARTHY MOTIONED TO MOVE SOME OF THE SURPLUS SHOWN ON THE BALANCE SHEET AS FOLLOWS:

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- 1) \$9000 to "Advanced Revenue"  
\$4000 to enhance the administrative assistant hours for 1996/1997  
\$5000 to a Library Fund to update and purchase necessary supplies.

This leaves a surplus of \$3,877.00.

- 2) That we set up two "Reserve Funds" for a total of \$30,000 as follows:
  - \$10,000 for Replacement Reserve for Office Equipment
  - \$20,000 for a "Contingency Fund" (two months operating)

And that the Finance Committee be responsible for the Reserve Funds to be ratified by the Council.

Moved by: Rose-Marie McCarthy  
Seconded: Pat Kulscar  
Carried.

**Motion** THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT WITH THE INCLUSION OF THE ABOVE: ADVANCE REVENUE AND RESERVE FUNDS ON THE BALANCE SHEET.

Moved by: Rose-Marie McCarthy  
Seconded: Lesley Strong  
Carried.

**Motion** THAT THE FIRM OF DITTMER & GOMME BE APPOINTED AS THE AUDITORS FOR ACWS FOR 1996-1997.

Moved by: Rose-Marie McCarthy  
Seconded: Pat Kulscar  
Carried.

## **Acceptance of 1994-95 ACWS Annual Report**

**Motion** THAT THE 1995-1996 ACWS ANNUAL REPORT BE ACCEPTED.

Moved by: Lorna Culliton  
Seconded: Leslie Strong  
Carried.

## **By-Law Revisions**

Under Article I - Definitions

- 1) Battered Women. "Any woman identifying herself as experiencing abuses which may include: physical, psychological, emotional, sexual or economic.

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- 2) Women' Shelter. A shelter, Rural Family Violence Prevention Centre operated for the purpose of providing battered women, with or without, children, services that may include but not limited to the following:

Under Article V - Officers of the Society

- 1) Any Director shall be eligible for nomination as an officer of the Society. Officers of the Society shall be elected from among the Directors nominated on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the Society for a term of two years with the option of re-election. The President and Secretary shall be elected in the even numbered years and the Vice-President and the Treasurer shall be elected in the odd numbered years.

**Motion** THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ABOVE LISTED REVISIONS.

Moved by: Pat Kulscar

Seconded: Lorna Culliton

Carried.

Discussions held on the decision to maintain ten (10) as a Quorum.

**Elections** - Lorna Culliton replaced Joey Shields as Nomination Chair as Joey was not in attendance.

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

- ◆ Jean Langdon, President
- ◆ Rose-Marie McCarthy, Treasurer
- ◆ Mariella Sneddon, Secretary

Moved by: Lorna Culliton

Seconded: Lesley Strong

Carried.

An election for the position of Vice-President was held. There was a discussion around job sharing for the position. No motion was made. Pat Kulscar, Safe Home, and Sharlene Campbell, Harbour House, both ran for this position. The election took place and **Sharlene Campbell** was elected as Vice-President.

**Motion** THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

Moved by: Lorna Culliton

Seconded: Pat Kulscar

Carried.

**Adjournment**



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

Moved by: Jean Langdon  
Seconded: Lorna Culliton  
Carried.

# ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

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## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT



1996-1997 was a very busy year for the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. We continue to work with various committees and groups regarding the regionalization of Social Services. All of the individual shelter members continue to work on committees. At the provincial level, we have met with Mat Hanrahan, ADM, Alberta Family and Social Services, regarding standards and with the Regional co-chairs to present our views and concerns regarding abused women and their children, within regionalization of Social Services. The standards committee has worked to develop a "Director's Manual" which is near completion.

Funding is always an issue for us, but we continue to be successful in meeting our budget. We received funds from Status of Women Canada and the Knights of Columbus, plus donations from individuals and organizations like Great West Life and also a grant from the provincial government.

Our Provincial Coordinator, Arlene Chapman, continues to work locally, regionally and provincially with individual shelters and various organizations and groups. In addition, she is recognized for her knowledge of family violence and women's shelters and is asked to do major presentations, such as the conference at Mount Royal College. Recently, Arlene also had a request from Ottawa to organize a conference in Edmonton to solicit advice, and gather facts, statistics and personal experiences including federal and provincial departments, abused women and their advocates, and community and research groups, to study the feasibility of instituting a cohesive national program which will provide new identities for victims in life threatening relationships.

Flavia Bourne, our Administrative Coordinator, has reorganized the library, the files, and the office, and developed an internet page for ACWS and any shelters wishing to be included.

It is such a pleasure to work with two such organized and dynamic people.

To all the Directors and Board Members who are on committees, attend the Council Meetings, and participate in Council activities, we thank you. The strength of the Council is in our ability to share information and work together.

The coming year will be interesting and challenging I am sure, as we see the emergence of business plans within the regions. I believe we have the ability to adapt to the changes and successfully meet the challenges of the future.

Respectively submitted by:

Jean M. Langdon

June 1997

# ALBERTA COUNCIL of WOMEN'S SHELTERS

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## ACWS 1996-1997 HIGHLIGHTS PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT

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Work has continued throughout the spring on the development of Services to Children and Families. ACWS continues to lobby for funding at a provincial level. Concern remains high, and now more than ever, shelters must continue the fight in the Regions. I have met, again, with John Lackey, Commissioner of Services to Children and Families, to voice the concerns of provincial shelters. Plans are going ahead and that is why shelter input regionally is of vital importance. Jean Langdon, Heather Richards, and myself, met with the Council of Regions to provide crucial information on the necessity of shelters and our role in the new plan. Many were supportive and some were not.

Further, I met with shelter directors from the North-West Region to provide an update on regionalization and hear the concerns experienced by directors in Region 13. We met with the person contracted by the Commissioner's Office to write the plan. It was a less than positive experience! In the afternoon we met with the one of the Co-Chairs from Region 13 and this also was a grim experience. We must lobby hard in our own regions to ensure our survival.

The Action Committee, Immigrant Women Against Family Violence, will be holding a conference to evaluate the work of the committee and identify areas where we need to have greater input in developing plans needed to accomplish this. Attendance at the breakfast meetings has fallen and we need to look at increasing community involvement.

ACWS Committee's have been meeting and working to complete several projects. The Standards Committee continues work on the Director's Manual and much work is left to do. We hope to have the Manual completed by the end of August, 1997. We have experienced some delay with the difficulty of bringing committee members together. The next meeting is scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> in hopes that members will be able to travel only once to attend. The Social Issues Committee has worked hard on developing a workshop which will be presented as part of the June Directors Meeting. Finance has been working at completing the Casino report and ensuring our books are in order. The auditor has been in working on the ACWS yearly audit. Great West Life will have a completed report on our benefits package ready for the June meeting as well. I met with our representative to sign the new contracts adding the Employee Assistance Program and Massage Therapy to our package.

I have met with Janet Buckmaster from Alberta Board Development to obtain updated information on their program. A brochure was included in your packages and a short article will appear in the Summer Newsletter which is almost ready to go. Flavia Bourne and Sharlene Campbell have continued work on the ACWS Web page and we hope to be on line by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1997.

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The Violet Committee (Women, Violence, The Law and The Net) has continued to meet and we have received the first part of the grant from Status of Women Canada to begin the project in earnest. I will update all the shelters as money becomes available to update your computers and get you on line. We are looking to hire a part-time coordinator for the project.

The Edmonton Family Violence Prevention Centre had its Grand Opening on April 14<sup>th</sup> which was very well attended. The project is up and running and already very busy with requests for assistance.

The IODE Workshop took place in May and was well attended. The Evaluation forms have not yet been completed and I will report on the success of the conference as soon as possible. Congratulations to Erin Gray and the committee for all of their hard work and great ideas.

ACWS was contacted by HRDC through Status of Women Canada to organize a community consultation. HRDC has received funding to pilot a six month study on abused women who need to change their identities because of safety issues related to Family Violence. Ms Chenette will attend. She is part of a team working on this issue with people from HRDC, Revenue Canada and Status of Women Canada. We will meet on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and I will update the membership on the outcomes of the consultation.

Citizenship Services Branch, in partnership with ACWS, Alberta Justice, and the Office for the Prevention of Family Violence, is planning a symposium called "Risk Management in Family Violence". We are anxious to have Shelter Directors attend from across the province and to that end we have scheduled the symposium for September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1997 which proceeds the fall ACWS Council Meeting of September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at the same location. This should prove to be an innovative conference. I will forward an agenda and all the information as soon as it becomes available. An article on the conference will also appear in the Summer Newsletter.

It has been an exhaustive and trying year for ACWS and member shelters. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current executive for all of the support and hard work they have contributed to the organization over the past year. Your contributions of time and talent lend strength to the ACWS organization as a whole.

I would also like to thank Status of Women Canada for their ongoing and unfailing support of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, the Muttart Foundation for their project funding dollars, the Knights of Columbus for their generous support of ACWS and member shelters, Great West Life, and many individuals who have contributed over the past year. It is only through this support that ACWS can continue the work to break the cycle of family violence.