

25 Years



The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

Annual Report 2007 - 2008

Provincial Coordinator's Message

We're turning 25! Who would have guessed, 25 years ago, that the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters would mark its silver anniversary by hosting the first-ever global gathering of shelter workers?

Not only have we put out a worldwide welcome mat for *Discovering the Common Core: Practical Frameworks for Change*, but the response is overwhelming. From Australia, Afghanistan, Belarus, South Africa, Tasmania, Uganda and many other countries, shelter workers are laying plans to journey to Edmonton in September—and many are making sacrifices to come.

I think of the woman from Kenya for whom submitting an abstract meant taking a bus to the internet café many dusty kilometers away during the height of that country's recent unrest. "When two elephants fight, it is the grass which suffers most," she wrote, naming rape, burning, looting and killing as the order of the day. "Thank you for doing this!"

We have so much to gain by connecting with our sisters and brothers from around the world. It is my hope that this gathering will spur a legacy of best practice and global action such as we cannot even imagine—a noticeable swing toward a world that not only declares the rights of women and children, but holds true to those commitments in public and private life.

It can happen. Just as early gatherings built the momentum that brought AIDS to public consciousness, so occasions such as this add the power of unity to the voices on the frontline in this crisis. Voices all too often silenced by fear of losing hard-won ground.

Twenty-five years ago, a handful of shelter leaders came together in the hope that coordinated action would correct the injustices and inequities that were forcing them to operate in crisis mode. A quarter century later and more than 40 shelters strong, we celebrate all that ACWS has accomplished even as we scramble to help members cope with an economic

ACWS Marks 25 Years

1983

Founding Members:

Calgary -
Discovery House

- April 11, Alberta Council of Women's Shelters is incorporated

Calgary -
Women's
Emergency
Shelter

Calgary - YWCA
Sheriff King Home

Cold Lake -
Dr. Margaret
Savage Women's
Crisis Centre

"A shelter is still a band aid solution. Certainly we need shelters, no question about that. But it has to go much deeper. Society has to change. We need to think about each other, not just ourselves."

Edmonton -
Edmonton
Women's Shelter
(WIN House)

Ardis Beaudry
First ACWS President
(1984 - 1986)

Fort McMurray -
Unity House

Grande Prairie -
Odyssey House

Lethbridge -
YWCA Harbour
House

Lloydminster -
Interval Home
Society

Medicine Hat -
Phoenix Safe
House



boom that is escalating demand, stealing staff and bringing human trafficking to our doors. Every day, we see miracles worked against all odds in every shelter, and in our own office.

At 25, we know what it means to stand together—and what solidarity can accomplish. How fitting, then, to celebrate our anniversary year by standing with shelter workers from around the world. We look forward to welcoming them.

Jan Reimer

Minister of Justice,
the Honorable Rob
Nicholson, lends
ACWS a helping hand



ACWS receiving a cheque in the Winner's Circle

ACWS Marks 25 Years

1984

Ardis Beaudry,
Edmonton,
becomes the first
ACWS President

- Commitment by the province for 80% operational funding

Red Deer -
Central Alberta
Women's Emer-
gency Shelter

Sherwood Park -
Strathcona
Shelter Society

"The ACWS began as a grass-roots movement, to provide crisis support. Over time, it has become quite a sophisticated organization that has a lot of impact in influencing government policy. It's important to celebrate the critical role it plays in Alberta, bringing a voice to those who don't have a voice."

Lana Wells
ACWS President
(2000-2002)



ACWS 2007-2008 Highlights

Achieving key goals

Our strategic plan for the year set these four goals: equitable and sustainable funding; support to members; collaborative leadership; and being a mission-driven, efficient and effective organization. As the following summary indicates, ACWS and its members made significant progress in each area.

Goal 1: Equitable and sustainable funding base

Core operational funding

- A long-sought federal funding increase for First Nations on-reserve shelters is announced in June.
- A new advocacy toolkit makes the case for much-needed expansion in second stage shelter capacity.

Just and competitive compensation for shelter workers

- Who Cares? Alberta, launched by a coalition of organizations serving vulnerable people, calls on the provincial government to address the human resource crisis caused by inequities in wages and benefits.
- A new employee benefits package through the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association brings substantial savings to member shelters.
- Government announces funding increases in April and November 2007 and April 2008.



ACWS Marks 25 Years

1985

Hinton -
Yellowhead
Emergency
Shelter

- ACWS collaborates with Alberta Family and Social Services to develop Women's Shelter Information System (WSIS)

"There is a fundamental difference between waiting in line for the morning latte you know you will eventually receive and waiting in line for an essential service such as a shelter bed with the odds stacked against you."

Jan Reimer
ACWS Provincial Coordinator
(2001 - present)



Increased shelter profile

- Family Violence Prevention Month in November receives widespread publicity, thanks to support from member shelters. Among the highlights:
 - Launch of *Laptop Diaries* by Global News anchor Lynda Steele, with proceeds going to Edmonton women's shelters.
 - Lynda and Gord Steinke invite ACWS to the races and donate the winner's cheque to ACWS.
 - Edmonton's *Breakfast with the Guys* featuring Ben Atherton-Zeman, who uses humour to speak about violence as a men's issue. Ben also presents to students at the University of Alberta.
 - Calgary *Cup of Tea* and Country Music evening fundraising events featuring Brian Vallee, author of *The War on Women*.
 - Stony Plain premiere of *Voices*, a play on family violence.
 - *Breakfast with the Chiefs* and talks with teens by Daryl Fort, youth adviser to the Governor of Maine.
- Calgary's *Breakfast with the Guys* hosted by Premier Ed Stelmach, Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson and other community leaders. Special police training follows.



ACWS Marks 25 Years

1986

Jean Reynolds/Mucha,
Edmonton, elected
as Board President

Peace River -
Peace River
Regional Women's
Centre

Camrose -
Brigantia Place

Fairview -
Crossroads
Resource Centre

Whitecourt -
Wellspring Family
Resource & Crisis
Centre

Black Diamond -
Rowan House
Emergency Shelter

- Translation Project: Scripts developed for each member shelter introducing women to the shelter and services, with printed translations in several languages and audio tapes in languages including Vietnamese, Cantonese, and French
- Child support funded in shelter



Goal 2: Enable member shelters to deliver optimum service

Members informed of ACWS initiatives

- Members begin receiving Friday Files, weekly e-mail summaries of important issues and best practices.
- Key resources are updated, including the board/director reference guide, the shelter director's manual and the ACWS compendium.

Member shelters supported

- Putting top priority on addressing the staffing crisis, ACWS develops a Human Resource Retention and Attraction Strategy and hosts "A Great Place to Work" workshop for shelter directors.
- Shelter workers benefit from numerous other development opportunities.
 - Launch of the Women's Shelter Leadership Bursary Program.
 - A conversation with Lt. General Romeo Dallaire (Ret.).
 - Advice from consultant Ken Chapman on negotiating fair contracts.
 - A policymaking workshop with Toni Lashbrook.



On reserve shelters meet Senator Dallaire

ACWS Marks 25 Years

1987

First office opens
March 23, at
206A, 10101 124
Street

Loretta Bertol,
hired as the
Provincial
Coordinator
(first paid staff
member)

Edmonton -
Lurana Shelter

Lac La Biche -
Hope Haven
Society

- ACWS is approved for federal funding by the Secretary of State
- Administrative assistants are funded

"It's a constant battle to convince the government that working in shelters is a very serious job and that there would be a lot of repercussions if we didn't have professional people in those positions. Our wages have gone up, but it really was a struggle, and they keep falling behind because they're not tied to the cost of living. Because of the climate in Alberta now, it's ever so hard to find people who are willing to work for lower wages."

Joie Dery
ACWS President
(2005 - present)



- Training on effective interventions for children exposed to family violence with Linda Baker, Alison Cunningham and Pamela Hurley.
- Danger Assessment train-the-trainer workshops with Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell.
- Data gathered to demonstrate that shelters are low risk clients and then used to negotiate optimal and stable insurance coverage.
- ACWS convinces the province to continue paying for shelter insurance, which the government threatened to discontinue.
- Memorandum of Understanding with RCMP updated.

Goal 3: leadership toward an integrated, collaborative, adequately funded response to family violence

Global recognition

A full 320 abstracts flood in as ACWS prepares to host the first ever global conference of women's shelters in September.

- ACWS is invited to participate in the following initiatives, testifying to trust earned beyond shelter circles.
 - WHO Violence Prevention Alliance and their Third Milestone Conference.
 - The Calgary launch of Brian Vallee's book, *War on Women*.
 - The Justice Policy Advisory Committee.
 - University of Alberta Arts, Science and Law Research Ethics Board.
 - Children Exposed to Family Violence world conference.
 - RESOLVE events at the University of Calgary and Winnipeg.
 - Canadian Standards Association conference in Toronto.
 - WHO safety conference in Mexico.
 - Victoria conference on working collaboratively in Aboriginal communities.

ACWS Marks 25 Years

1988

High Level -
Safe Home

Enilda -
Sucker Creek
Women's
Emergency
Shelter

Edmonton -
Wings of
Providence

Wabasca -
Bigstone Cree
Nation Women's
Emergency
Shelter

"This conference puts shelters on the podium. Often, they're in the back of the room, with lawyers, academics and police on stage."

Jan Reimer
ACWS Provincial Coordinator
(2001 - present)



Catalyst for innovative thinking

- ACWS plays a major role in framing issues so that their impact is understood. *Research Trends and Implications for Practice: The State of Alberta's Children*, published this year, details how our province has broken commitments made through the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Successful men's breakfasts in Edmonton, Calgary and elsewhere involve such role models as Treaty Chiefs, Jackson Katz, Ben Atherton-Zeman, Mark Wynn, Premier Stelmach, Mayor Mandel, Hugh Campbell, Lanny McDonald, Kelly Buchberger and Perry Berezan. Other provinces replicate the breakfasts, and men from around the globe sign up for a Men's Leadership Forum set to launch the September conference.
- ACWS is a finalist at the Laurel Awards, which recognize innovation and creativity in non-profit organizations.
- ACWS addresses domestic violence from a human rights perspective linking with leaders and organizations such as Dr. Sima Simar, recipient of the John Humphrey Freedom Award, Steven Lewis, Romeo Dallaire, Dr Alex Butchart, of the WHO, and UNIFEM.

Increased corporate awareness of family violence issues in the workplace

- Through a five-year, \$250,000 partnership with the Health Sciences Association of Alberta, ACWS is developing a toolkit to help workplaces recognize and address domestic violence.
- ACWS presents at a province-wide tele-health session in October on Domestic Violence as a health care issue.

ACWS Marks 25 Years

1989

Judy Cosco,
Sherwood Park,
elected as Board
President

Office moves
across the street
from Baker Centre

Pincher Creek -
Safe Haven
Women's Shelter

Strathmore -
Community Crisis
Society

Grande Cache -
Transition
House Society

St. Paul -
Columbus House of
Hope

- The Honourable John Oldring allocates funding for ACWS office and shelter needs

"Our members see firsthand the impact of family violence in their workplaces involving patients and coworkers. Furthermore, we know that some members are affected in their homes."

Elisabeth Ballermann
HSA President



Beneficial relationships with key stakeholders

- ACWS is asked to submit to the Premier's Task Force on Housing; although the initial report does not recognize the need for second stage housing, several second stage projects have since been announced.
- ACWS input improves the accuracy and relevance of the Minister's Shelter Review.
- Two special educational funds created: \$100,000 for frontline staff and \$400,000 for senior managers.
- ACWS collaborates with the federal government and RESOLVE on a national study examining the intersection of homelessness and battered women and the possibility of a national sheltering movement.
- ACWS embarks on groundbreaking research with Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell to assess how her Danger Assessment tool is being applied in Alberta shelters.
- ACWS partners with seniors' shelters and the Alberta Elder Abuse Association Network on two proposals addressing elder abuse.
- ACWS leaders engage in useful sessions with incoming provincial ministers.
- ACWS partners with Multi-Youth Productions to create a play about domestic violence and helps MYP obtain a grant from Telus Foundation to perform Voices around the province. The play will be featured at the World Conference.
- The Downtown Business Association works with ACWS to organize wellness sessions for each day of the World Conference.
- ACWS partners with Calgary Police Services to present keynote Mark Wynn to police officers after Breakfast with the Guys.

ACWS Marks 25 Years

1990

Marilyn Fieger,
hired as
Provincial
Coordinator

- Core standards developed with the province
- ACWS co-sponsors *Women and AIDS Project*

"I hope to see in the future that we don't need women's shelters. That we actually have zero tolerance for violence and a society of people growing up with compassion. And kids not witnessing violence."

Lana Wells
ACWS President
(2000-2002)



Goal 4: Being mission-driven, well-resourced, efficient and effective

Effective, responsive governance structure

- Enjoying attractive office space at 10310 Jasper Avenue, ACWS staff are still amazed at the outpouring of support that pulled ACWS through an unbudgeted renovation and move in February 2007.
- The ACWS team gains Elizabeth Mallard to oversee Finance and Data and Charleen Shaw as Office Administrator.
- For the first time, the office taps the skills of Community, Service, Learning (CSL) students and summer interns as students from the University of Alberta and Concordia University College help prepare for the upcoming World Conference.
- ACWS develops a staff wellness program and makes wellness a key aspect of the global conference.

Increased, diversified, sustainable resources for operation

- Our annual November Cup of Tea campaign is revamped and we note that donations are upleveled from the majority of donors who respond.
- Our enhanced data base becomes a critical part of communication with our donors and with the world.



ACWS Marks 25 Years

1991

- Compendium of Services for shelters is developed

"I don't know if shelters could be put under any more stress than they already were. And the problems they are dealing with are not easily solved. We're talking about how people treat each other. And that has to change."

Ardis Beaudry
ACWS President
(1984 - 1986)



Governance Committee

Ongoing search for leaders

Roles on the Governance Committee were not formalized until mid November 2007. The members are Barbara Young, Tess Gordy, Sister Lucinda May Patterson, and Bronwyn Rutter.

Since November, the committee has focused on ensuring that key positions on the ACWS Board are filled. Following the resignation of Bev Rachwalski, a decision was made to search for a treasurer from Edmonton so that cheque signing and other interaction could easily occur. After some arm twisting, Pat Vargas was convinced to move from the position of secretary to treasurer until another candidate could be recruited for the treasurer's position. In order to expedite the payment of smaller bills it was agreed by the Board that staff members Jan Reimer and Elizabeth Mallard could jointly sign cheques under \$2,000. Mike Dickinson agreed to assume the role of secretary to replace Pat.

Marlene Haymour, who replaced Bev as the representative for LaSalle, was nominated for the Board and her nomination was accepted.

To simplify the process of finding and keeping suitable leaders, our committee recommended that board representatives no longer be required to be current members of the board of their sponsoring shelter. Often membership on shelter boards is limited in duration due to those organizations' governance rules; as a result, ACWS Board members have had to resign before their term is up, reducing continuity and experience on the Board. This recommendation is being presented to the general membership at the AGM in the form of a motion to replace the bylaws.

Barbara Young
Vice President and Chair of the Governance Committee

ACWS Marks 25 Years

1992

- Minister of Family and Social Services commits to new funding model for shelters and satellites
- Satellite shelters receive an increase of 2.5% in funding
- 'Bridging the Gap' Aboriginal Awareness Workshop is launched

"A sizable jump in the number of turnaways underlines the fact that shelters face a huge capacity issue because of the boom. Coupled with staffing gaps, the escalating need creates serious stressors within every member shelter."

Jan Reimer
ACWS Provincial Coordinator
(2001– present)



On-Reserve Shelter Committee

Federal funding breakthrough brings relief

After years of persistence, we received happy news in June when the federal government announced an enhanced funding formula that will see \$56 million invested in First Nations on-reserve shelters and related preventive programs in the coming five years. Five shelters in Alberta are benefiting from the long-sought funding, as are all 35 of Canada's on-reserve shelters. Several new on-reserve shelters will result, including one on the Blood Reserve in southern Alberta that is due to open next year.

The new national strategy brings relief to shelter workers who were not only being paid a pittance but bringing food from home to feed the women and children in their care. With enhanced wages, the workers are seen as role models in their communities, a welcome asset in their work. Stable operating funding also makes it possible to plan training that was not affordable before.

Since the funding announcement, ACWS and on-reserve shelter leaders have worked together on an accountability framework for the shelters. Some staff participated in danger assessment and HOMES database training. Plans are also being laid to open an office and hire a coordinator to focus specifically on meeting the shelter needs of Alberta's First Nations people.

Janet Gladue
Chair, On-reserve Shelter Committee

ACWS Marks 25 Years

1993

Jean Langdon,
Calgary, elected as
Board President

Calgary - Awo
Taan Healing
Lodge Society

- Group Benefits Plan implemented; seven shelters participate
- Shelter child care staff participate in *An Orientation to Native Culture: Bridging the Gap, IODE Child Support Workshop*
- ACWS co-sponsors the production of *Women Facing AIDS* video
- Our first casino
- The only NGO member participating with Alberta Justice on Family Violence Policing Initiatives Advisory Committee

1994

Arlene Chapman
hired as
Provincial
Coordinator

Office moves to
2, 12739 Fort
Road

- Urban shelters receive TTY telephone systems
- ACWS develops protocols with Social Services on assisting victims from immigrant communities



Shelter workers benefit from expanded opportunities

Recognizing clear signs of burnout due to staffing gaps, the ACWS obtained a \$22,000 grant from Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry to develop human resource strategies to help shelters recruit and retain staff. As part of that initiative, in September, Dr. Graham Lowe led a workshop for shelter directors on creating “a great place to work”.

The Women’s Shelter Leadership Bursary Program, launched in mid-2007, attracted four applications; three were approved, totaling \$6,446. Funding from Alberta Children’s Services seeded the bursary, which will grow by attracting other contributions.

A full 42 shelter workers completed courses in the Portage College Crisis Workers Intervention Certificate Program and received reimbursement. Another 39 applications were approved; those workers will be reimbursed upon receipt of transcripts. Reimbursements for 2007-2008 in this IODE-funded program total \$9,700. Modules from the program also formed a three-day training session for on-reserve shelter staff hired as a result of increased funding.

Sixty-five staff attended Little Eyes Little Ears, a two-day course led by Dr. Linda Baker in November.

Plans are underway to offer Leadership Workshops for the ACWS membership as a group. Our committee will continue to provide information on programs for individuals.

A survey undertaken in February to determine the training needs of front-line staff is prompting research into new opportunities, including a possible orientation session for new shelter employees.

Karen Pease
Chair, Education and Training Committee

ACWS Marks 25 Years

1995

- *Probation Officer Training Project* presented to federal and provincial probation officers
- Meet with Minister Allan Rock on changes needed to maintenance payments
- Work with Alberta Family & Social Services to develop protocols between shelters, social assistance & Child Welfare staff

1996

Calgary -
Brenda Strafford
Centre

- ACWS launches web page



New initiatives launched in training and research

This year has been an exciting one for the Systems Information Committee, which gained standing committee status in recognition of the ongoing need to build the statistical case for best-practice shelters.

We said goodbye to Rebecca Countaway, who was with us for a short time, as she moved on from WINGS of Providence. To maintain the second stage perspective, in September we welcomed Lenora Wiebe, Shelter Director at Sonshine Community Services in Calgary. Lenora brings almost 10 years of experience as frontline counsellor, interim executive director and now director of the residential program at Sonshine.

A major focus this year is on our first research project, *Danger Assessment Utilization in Alberta Shelters*, supported by the Community Incentive Fund. ACWS is partnering with Dr. Jacqueline Campbell of Johns Hopkins University, the world's leading expert in this area, to study the use of her Danger Assessment tool in selected shelters across Alberta.

Led by ACWS Researcher Dr. Kate Woodman, the study is examining these aspects:

- the lethality risk faced by women fleeing intimate partner violence;
- whether the tool's use influences women's perception of safety; and
- women's shelter best practices for keeping women and children safe.

The study involves a mix of nine emergency and second stage shelters, including two on-reserve shelters. They are Eagle's Nest Stoney Family Shelter, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter, Peace River Regional Women's Shelter, St. Paul and District Crisis Association, Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society, Bigstone Cree Nation, WINGS of Providence, Sonshine Community Services and A Safe Place.

Focus groups in Calgary, Medicine Hat, Edmonton, Peace River and St. Paul gathered input from stakeholders, with excellent results. Police officers, lawyers, probation officers, judges, school principals, funders, service providers and others offered insights on the Danger Assessment

ACWS Marks 25 Years

1997

- First Alberta Crisis Workers Conference held
- Lobby to increase shelter staffing salaries
- First Directors Manual published
- ACWS hires an Administrative Assistant

1998

Calgary -
Kerby Centre

Edmonton -
La Salle Residence

Fort Chipewyan
- Mikisew Cree
First Nation -
Paspew House

"It is clear that along the way ACWS has garnered tremendous support in both government and the public sector, women and men, who became strong advocates for the work of ACWS and member shelters. This speaks to the importance of relationship and community building, where individuals who share a common vision can truly move mountains in changing our world for the better."

**ACWS Board President
Carolyn Goard
(2003 - 2004)**



tool and discussed how this project will assist their work with women and families leaving abusive situations. All agreed that collaboration with shelters is the best way to maximize assessment outcomes by providing everyone involved a comprehensive understanding of the victim's situation.

Encouraged by strong preliminary results, we have applied to extend the project beyond May, into a second year. We look forward to following up with province-wide training on best practices for using Danger Assessment in shelters and the larger community.

We hosted our third annual Fall HOMES Training, again a great success with 42 participants registered. Besides the Level 1 Basic Data Entry, we offered Program Logic Model training and presented Outreach Documents to all shelters in Level 2. Level 3 training specialized in advanced analysis of HOMES data. In response to requests, 11 shelter workers attended a second Calgary Spring HOMES Training on basic HOMES data entry in May.

The committee worked with the Alberta Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Division to revise and shorten the provincial Exit Survey so that it is easier to administer and reflects how shelter stays impact client safety. Shelters continue to use the original survey to collect other useful information for broader reporting and quality improvement purposes.

Looking forward to the upcoming First World Conference of Women's Shelters in September, we are extremely excited about exchanging best practices with other advocates from around the world.

As always, we aim to be responsive to the needs of the shelter network. Please let us know how we can assist with your data collection needs.

Lissa Samantaraya-Shivji
Chair, Systems Information Committee

ACWS Marks 25 Years

1999

Brooks -
Brooks & District
Women's Safe
Shelter Society

"Violence against women is often seen as a criminal justice issue, but not often as a major health issue. Yet it kills as many women of reproductive age as cancer—more than traffic deaths and malaria combined. WHO calls it a pandemic."

Jan Reimer
ACWS Provincial Coordinator
(2001 - present)



Social & Legal Ethics Committee

The Social and Legal Ethics Committee met once to undertake an ethical review of the research project: *Danger Assessment Utilization* in Alberta. This committee recommended approval of this project to the Board and offered some thoughtful advice to the research team.



Silent Witness Display at the Citadel



Meeting for Danger Assessment Project

ACWS Marks 25 Years

2000

Lana Wells,
Calgary, elected
as Board
President

- ACWS intervenes in Supreme Court challenge of gun control law

Maskwaci -
Ermineskin
Women's
Shelter

"Sadly, shelters are encountering increasing challenges as they confront the dark side of Alberta's boom. Not only is it hard to find and keep staff, but shelters now need to find housing for staff as well as clients. Some directors are doing landscaping work because they can't find a landscaper. They interrupt meetings to plunge toilets."

Jan Reimer
ACWS Provincial Coordinator
(2001– present)



Financial Statements

Skolney & Company

Chartered Accountants

Glenn W. Skolney, B.Comm., C.A. (ext. 301)
Judy Vansevenandt, B.Comm., C.A. (ext. 304)
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AUDITOR'S REPORT

To The Members of
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

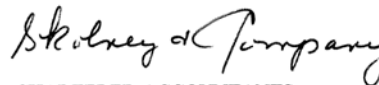
We have audited the statement of financial position of Alberta Council of Women's Shelters as at March 31, 2008 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flow for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. Our responsibility 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, 2008 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

June 6, 2008
Edmonton, Alberta



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ACWS Marks 25 Years

2001

Jan Reimer
hired as
Provincial
Coordinator

**Calgary -
Sonshine Com-
munity Services**

**Rocky
Mountain
House -
Mountain Rose
Women's
Shelter**

- *Supports for Independence (SFI) and the Cost of Living in Alberta: Regional Differences* report is well received by provincial government
- Launch of new fundraiser, *Cup of Tea Campaign*
- ACWS restructures the Board



ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MARCH 31, 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and term deposits	1,007,800	447,512
Accounts receivable	18,332	38,145
Inventory	12,732	11,595
Prepaid expenses	19,397	8,273
	1,058,261	505,525
LONG TERM INVESTMENT – at cost	12,606	-
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Notes 2 and 4)	15,817	20,557
	1,086,684	526,082
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	30,383	28,469
Unexpended grants (Note 3)	668,651	129,670
Deferred contributions related to operations	29,347	55,954
Deferred contributions related to equipment (Note 6)	2,000	4,000
	730,381	218,093
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	275,694	229,380
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS (Note 5)	62,052	62,052
INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT	18,557	16,557
	356,303	307,989
	1,086,684	526,082

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

 Director

 Director

Pending Membership Approval

ACWS Marks 25 Years

2002

Banff -
 YWCA of
 Banff

Office moves to
 Alex Taylor
 School
 9321 Jasper Ave

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Government of Alberta, ACWS and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

- ACWS participates in Minister Iris Evans' Shelter Review

2003

Carolyn Goard,
 Calgary, elected
 as Board
 President

Cardston -
 Kaniai Women's
 Healing Center

Edmonton -
 Seniors
 Association of
 Greater
 Edmonton
 (SAGE)

Taber -
 Taber & District
 Family Crisis
 Intervention
 Society

- *Children Who Witness Violence* training seminar presented

- Hosted the first *Administrative Assistants' Workshop*

- ACWS partners with Portage College to develop *Crisis Intervention Workers Training*

- ACWS adds a communication position



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008**

	2008			2007	
	Investment in Property and Equipment \$	Internally Restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	Total \$	Total \$
BALANCE, beginning of year	16,557	62,052	229,380	307,989	252,384
Excess (Deficiency) of revenue over expenses	2,000	-	46,314	48,314	55,605
Investment in property and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
BALANCE, end of year	18,557	62,052	275,694	356,303	307,989

ACWS Marks 25 Years

2004

- Shelter funding boosted
- Partnership with the provincial government results in *It's Your Business* media campaign
- *Ethical/Moral Framework* developed and introduced to shelters
- *Alberta Silent Witness Project* launched
- ACWS adds research position

"I could never have predicted that domestic violence would come into my life this way."

**Friend and Colleague
Liana White
Walk of Hope**



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008**

	2008 \$	2007 \$
REVENUE		
Government of Alberta	198,000	198,500
Donations	157,410	143,219
Grants (Schedule 1)	147,844	314,729
Casino revenue	74,636	-
Interest and other income	72,808	64,252
Status of Women Canada	60,000	35,000
Fundraising	58,561	55,080
Registration and workshop fees	28,392	6,420
Membership fees	25,800	22,300
Book sales	6,263	21,432
Donations in kind	249	8,819
Administration fees	-	86,764
Family Violence Prevention Month	-	-
IODE	-	-
Muttart Foundation	-	-
<u>Amortization of deferred contributions</u>	2,000	2,000
	<u>831,963</u>	<u>958,515</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Wages and employee benefits	357,963	264,297
Program expenses	188,893	387,116
Office and miscellaneous	89,636	105,511
Recruitment and training	47,169	52,066
Occupancy costs	25,672	10,147
Annual General Meeting	22,112	22,281
Repairs and maintenance	13,614	16,278
Shelter Emergency Distributions	7,879	13,864
Newsletter and brochures	6,550	3,775
Professional fees	4,928	4,383
Casino expense	4,492	-
Telephone	4,331	5,127
Loss on shares	3,219	-
Insurance	2,451	2,349
<u>Amortization</u>	4,740	4,670
	<u>783,649</u>	<u>891,864</u>
<u>EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>48,314</u>	<u>66,651</u>

ACWS Marks 25 Years

2005

Joie Dery, Cold Lake, elected as Board President

Morley - Eagle's Nest
Stoney Family Shelter

- *Standing Together* published, with over 240 submissions received
- *Breakfast with the Boys* debuts in Edmonton
- ACWS partners with Portage College to establish *Crisis Worker Training Certificate Program*

2006

- Minister Heather Forsythe initiates a shelter review
- ACWS invited to present at the first Inter-American Conference for Women's Shelters



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008**

	2008 \$	2007 \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenue over expenditures	48,314	66,651
Amortization of property and equipment	4,740	4,670
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(2,000)	(2,000)
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	19,813	(26,378)
Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions	(26,607)	49,372
(Decrease) increase in unexpended grants	538,981	(94,081)
(Decrease) increase in accounts payable	1,914	(11,646)
Decrease (increase) in inventory	(1,137)	16,427
	<u>584,018</u>	<u>3,015</u>
Net change in non-cash working capital components:		
Prepaid expenses	(11,124)	(8,273)
FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Transfers to (from) reserves	-	(11,046)
Long term Investment	(12,606)	-
Purchase of property and equipment	-	(4,553)
	<u>(12,606)</u>	<u>(15,599)</u>
(DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH	560,288	(20,857)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	447,512	468,369
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	<u>1,007,800</u>	<u>447,512</u>

ACWS Marks 25 Years

2007

Office moves to
320, 10310
Jasper Avenue

- Breakfast with the Guys debuts in Calgary
- *Who Cares? Alberta* campaign addresses non-profit human resources crisis
- Guidelines for protocol development finalized with Alberta Children's Services
- On-reserve shelters receive funding increase
- ACWS adds Finance and Information position

"An amazing 25 year saga, marked by courage and perseverance in raising awareness, developing leading edge domestic violence programming, and advocating for creation of a societal context where women's and children's voices can begin to be heard."

**Carolyn Goard
ACWS Board President
(2003 - 2004)**



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008**

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) 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.

(B) 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%

(C) 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.

ACWS Marks 25 Years

2008

- ACWS hosts first World's Conference of Women's Shelters
- ACWS adds Member Programs and Service position

"It's come a long way. I am very proud to have been involved with all of it, and I'd have to say it changed my life. To me it is an example of all women coming together, trying to find something better for women."

**Ardis Beaudry
First ACWS President
(1984 - 1986)**



ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(D) Inventory-

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

(E) 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.

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS

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 \$54,740. During the year \$25,057 was expended on the project and the unexpended portion at March 31, 2008 was \$29,683.

B. Shelter Emergency Fund

In a prior year, the Council received funds to be used to provide member shelters with funds to accommodate emergency repairs to the shelters' infrastructures. The unexpended balance at the beginning of the year was \$18,880. During the year \$7,879 was expended. The unexpended balance at March 31, 2008 was \$11,001.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

C. Second Stage Housing

In a prior year, the Council received \$23,000 from the Canadian Women's Foundation to develop a provincially funded second stage housing toolkit that will support both existing and the building of new second stage women's shelters in Alberta. During the year \$14,860 was expended. The unexpended balance at March 31, 2008 was \$8,140.

D. Danger Assessment

During the year the Council received \$75,000 from the Community Incentive Fund through Alberta Children's Services to be used to conduct a research project on the Danger Assessment tool developed by Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell. \$17,135 was expended during the year. The unexpended balance at March 31, 2008 was \$57,865.

E. PFVB - Education

During the year, the Council received \$100,000 from Alberta Children's Services to develop and provide training to front line shelter staff. At March 31, 2008 none of the funds were expended.

F. 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. During the year, \$6,446 was expended on bursaries leaving an unexpended balance at year end of \$393,554.

G. Human Resource Strategy

During the year, the Council was awarded a grant of \$16,550 from Alberta Employment Immigration and Industry under the Workforce Attraction Retention Partnership (WARP) program. \$4,078 was expended in 2007-2008, leaving an unexpended balance of \$12,472.

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)

H. 2008 World Conference of Women's Shelters

During the year, the Council received \$56,297 in grant funding and donations in support of the first ever World Conference of Women's Shelters: Discovering the Common Core, Practical Frameworks for Change to be held September 8-11, 2008. Through the year, \$39,360 was expended on the Conference leaving an unexpended balance of \$16,937.

I. Workplace Violence -- HSAA

During the year, the Council entered into a five year funding agreement with the Health Sciences Association of Alberta to develop a program to address workplace violence. The annual funding of \$50,000 was received late in the year and fully deferred to 2008-2009.

4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	2008		2007	
	Cost \$	Accumulated Amortization \$	Net Book Value \$	Net Book Value \$
Office equipment	\$38,653	\$25,981	\$12,672	\$15,840
Computer equipment	16,118	12,973	3,145	4,717
	<u>\$54,771</u>	<u>\$38,954</u>	<u>\$15,817</u>	<u>\$20,557</u>

5. INTERNAL RESTRICTIONS

The Board of Directors of the Council has allocated funds for specifically identified purposes. The Council may not use these internally restricted funds for any other purpose without the approval of the board of directors.

	2008 \$	2007 \$
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(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
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ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

5. INTERNAL RESTRICTIONS

(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	10,052
	<u>62,052</u>	<u>62,052</u>

6. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Deferred contributions related to property and equipment represent a restricted contribution with which the Council purchased certain office equipment. The changes to the deferred contributions balance for the period are as follows:

	2008 \$	2007 \$
BALANCE, beginning of year	4,000	6,000
Amounts amortized to revenue	(2,000)	(2,000)
BALANCE, end of year	<u>2,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>

7. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial instruments of the Council consists mainly of cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable.

The carrying values of these financial assets and liabilities approximate their fair values unless otherwise disclosed.

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

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008**

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:

2009	12,116
2010	12,300
2011	14,319
2012	13,126

SCHEDULE 1

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS
GRANT SCHEDULE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008**

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Children Exposed to Family Violence – Children's Services	25,057	2,437
Strategic Fundraising – CIP	23,361	11,639
World Conference	23,063	-
Communications and Partnerships	22,500	33,750
Danger Assessment – CIF	17,135	50,000
CWF – Second Stage	14,860	-
Bursary Program – Children's Services	6,446	-
National Victims of Crime Awareness	5,000	-
Information Systems – Wild Rose Foundation	4,690	26,310
Human Resource Strategy	4,078	-
Education Fund – IODE	1,654	17,400
Pathways – Children's Services	-	58,916
Aboriginal Resources – INAC Contract	-	50,000
Federal Early Learning – Children's Services	-	25,461
Family Violence Prevention month – Children's Services	-	22,093
Board Strengthening – Muttart	-	6,348
Children in Shelter – Prairie Action Foundation	-	5,375
Silent Witness – Prairie Action Foundation	-	5,000
	<u>147,844</u>	<u>314,729</u>

ACWS Supporters

A Muse Communications
AEII
Alberta Children's Services
Alberta Employment, Immigration & Industry
AltaFab Structures
AUPE
AUPE Local 6
AW Holdings
Birchcliff Energy Ltd.
Brenda Strafford Foundation
Calgary Police Service
Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter
Canadian Girls Rodeo Association
Capital Health - Edmonton Area
CEP - Local 777
CEP Alberta Area Council
Community Incentive Fund
Clark Builders
Comm. Energy & Paperworks - Local 1118
Comm. Energy & Paperworks - Local 707
Comm. Energy & Paperworks - Local 855
Connacher Oil and Gas Limited
Deborah Bisnaire
Hon. Romeo Dellaire
Dr Donna Hamerlindl
Earth & Iron Inc
Edmonton Northlands
Emuna Womens Organization of Edmonton
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

FJS Rehabilitation Consulting Inc.
Harvest Operations Corp.
HomeFront-Stop It Where It Starts
HSAA
Human Rights Education Fund
IODE
Kentwood Ford
Ledcor Industries Inc.
Ledcor Staff
Liana's Walk
Mancap Group
Melcor Developments
Michael Phair
Miller Thomson LLP
Mr and Mrs Dale & Kevin Quinn
Mr and Mrs Ron & Debbie Gabinet
Mr Arti Koshal
Mr Callum Wheaton
Mr Charles W. Fischer
Mr Clifford Friesen
Mr Gary McDougall
Mr J. Barry Petursson
Mr Kevin Fitzgerald
Mr Reza Nasser
Mr Ron Plant
Mr Ulrich Trumpener
Mr William Daly
Ms Glenna Russell
Ms Kerry Douglas

Ms Shelly Gurba
Muttart Foundation
O'Hanlon Paving
Pace Industrial
Pals Surveys & Associates Ltd
Prairie Action Foundation
Prairie Merchant Corporation
Professional Locksmiths Association of Alberta
Ralph & Gay Young Family Fund
Romanovsky & Associates CA
Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation
RTU Power & Controls Ltd.
Samuel, Son & Co., Limited
Shocker Racing Group
Southminster - Steinhauer United Church
Spartan Controls
Status of Women
Sunchild Rentals Ltd
Talisman Energy Inc.
Telus - Community Foundation
United Nurses of Alberta Local 33
United Way of Calgary
United Way of The Alberta Capital Region
Volunteer Alberta
West Canadian
West Edmonton Mall Property Inc.
YWCA Calgary

We apologize to anyone whose name has been missed - your support and commitment to ACWS and our member shelters is much appreciated.

ACWS Team

Board of Directors (2007 - 08)

Joie Dery, President

Barbara Young, Vice President

Pat Vargas, Treasurer

Mike Dickinson, Secretary

Sharon Gamblin

Janet Gladue

Lorne Goddard

Tess Gordey

Bev Rachwalski / Marlene Haymour (Feb 08)

Marjorie Luger

Karen Pease

Bronwen Rutter

Edna Willier

Staff (2007 - 08)

Jan Reimer, Provincial Coordinator

Charleen Shaw, Office Administrator

Elizabeth Mallard, Finance and Information Administrator

Patti McClocklin, Communications & Partnership Specialist

Kate Woodman, Evaluation & Research Specialist

