

Building and Strengthening Relationship between  
First Nations Shelters and the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

**Alberta Council of Women's Shelters Statement of Commitments to Action for  
Indigenous Women, Girls, and Their Families**



*The following statement of Principles and Values and the companion Commitments to Action will rest as the Foundation of Relationship between the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, First Nations Women's Shelters, and for the Indigenous women, girls, and their families, that are served by all women's shelters in this province. Together we bring forward and declare this statement and these actions to be true in the spirit of peace and long-lasting friendship upon this path we share in the service and care of others.*

## **B. ACWS Commitment to Actions**

We will:

1. Respect and acknowledge the traditional Indigenous territories and treaties that are at the foundation of the Province of Alberta.
2. Respect and honour the unique nation-to nation relationship that Indigenous peoples have with the Crown's federal government.
3. Implement the most immediate and pertinent Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Articles from the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples incorporating
  - a. An acknowledgement of the results of colonization on the Indigenous communities
  - b. Increased awareness of the systemic discrimination and marginalization of Indigenous women and girls in Canada.
  - c. Advocating for funding needs for Indigenous women in remote and isolated communities to meet the needs of safety, transportation, employment, housing, childcare, and basic needs
  - d. The development of strategic alliances with Indigenous Nations, community leadership, and community organizations to support the work of the First Nations shelters, the ACWS, and ACWS membership.
4. Work together when differences arise to identify them and find common ground.
5. Directly address funding disparity and increase political support of Indigenous women's shelters on First Nations.
6. Support the creation of Welcoming and Safe spaces for Indigenous women and children transitioning from First Nations to Urban centres.
7. Work to ensure access to services and supports.
8. Ensure that Indigenous awareness training is available to all ACWS staff, ACWS board of directors, ACWS member boards, and for staff of all Alberta women's shelters.
9. Commit to having a minimum of 3 voting Indigenous members on the ACWS Board of Directors.
10. ACWS will develop strategies and actions, with shelters, to address the disproportionate number of Indigenous women and children who are victims of violence.

Provide an update on the "Statement of Principles, Values, and Commitment to Actions" in the ACWS annual report.