

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

**Alberta Council of Women's Shelters Statement of Principles and Values 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.

A. Principles and Values

1. Speak with and treat each other with honesty, respect, and kindness.
2. Listen and share equitably, for we all have knowledge.
3. Seek, honour, and respect the wisdom and knowledge of Indigenous Elders to guide us in our services and our relationship.
4. Honour the traditional place Indigenous women and children have at the centre of our community.
5. Hear, acknowledge, and respect the voices of Indigenous women.
6. Always seek better ways to improve or enhance services.
7. Create sharing opportunities for shelter partnerships and exchanges to learn from each other.
8. Create opportunities for family members to share their support, knowledge, and wisdom for the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous women.
9. Celebrate our successes together.
10. We must act to end Racism and Discrimination against Indigenous women.
11. Take the time to review and renew these relationship Principles, Values, and Commitment to Actions on a regular basis.