



Jennifer Lepko, CEO

YWCA Lethbridge and District

Theme: Cross-sectoral Collaboration

YWCA Lethbridge and District is an organization committed to women and the enhancement of their lives by providing programs and services which empower them, support equality and promote wellness in mind, body, and spirit. Programs include the YWCA Harbour House, a 30-bed crisis unit for women and children who are involved in abusive intimate partner relationships. Through a partnership with Lethbridge Housing Authority, YWCA Lethbridge & District is able to provide six housing allocations for women in crisis. Community members are able to access support and education-based counselling services through YWCA Outreach Services. YWCA Lethbridge and District's Safe Visitation Program meets the dual needs of children and parents through supervised visits that minimize the risks and potential for conflict escalation.

Critical Elements

- YWCA Lethbridge Harbour House staff are part of a collaborative group including probation, the police, RCMP and the Crown that meets at the court house on a weekly basis. They share information about domestic violence cases which results in Harbour House staff being able to provide support to women impacted by domestic violence where criminal charges have been laid.
- YWCA Lethbridge is a member of the Domestic Violence Action Team which has monthly meetings involving Children Services, Family Court, RCMP, police. This is a group that looks at higher level issues regarding domestic violence. They share information about resources, host awareness events and training sessions. This committee is made up of decision makers from the various agencies.
- The Amethyst Project works in collaboration with the Sexual Violence Action Committee (SVAC).