



Measuring
Progress:
After the
Roundtable

2009

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Measuring Progress: After the Roundtable#

We are currently marking a number of global and provincial anniversaries: the 30th anniversary of the Convention to End Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); 14 years since the Beijing Platform for Action (1995)¹; and 5 years since the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence Final Report (2005). It has also been three years since the completion of the Women's Shelter Program Review (2006).

It is, therefore, a good time to take stock, to look at what progress has been made and what still needs to be done in Alberta to address violence against women. And it is particularly timely, as governments and women's organizations prepare for Beijing + 15 in New York in 2010. *Measuring Progress: After the Roundtable* assesses how Alberta measures up with respect to these international conventions and uses the recommendations coming out of the Premier's Roundtable and the Women's Shelter Program Review as indicators to assist in measuring improvements that have been made from a shelter perspective.

States have an obligation under the conventions to regularly report on progress. Moreover, international agencies identify the involvement of stakeholders and women's organizations as a fundamental component to ensure progress. The World Health Organization and the United Nations both stress the need for community involvement in any evaluation of government initiatives to address violence against women. As pointed out in the Study of the Secretary-General, "Many governments use national plans of action—which include legal measures, service provision and prevention strategies—to address violence against women. The most effective include consultation with women's groups and other civil society organizations, clear time lines and benchmarks, transparent mechanisms for monitoring implementation, indicators of impact and evaluation, predictable and adequate funding streams, and integration of measures to tackle violence against women in programmes in a variety of sectors."²



¹ The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women identifies the scope of States parties' obligations to eliminate discrimination against women and to realize the principle of equality of women and men both in law and in practice. A full text of this document can be found at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>. The [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (1995) is the global community's most comprehensive policy document for the empowerment of women and gender equality. The Declaration famously stated that "women's rights are human rights." A full text of this document can be found at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform>. Section D on Violence Against Women, can be found in Appendix 2.

² Ending violence against women: From words to action. Study of the Secretary-General, p. v

While the Province of Alberta engaged in an extensive consultative process as part of the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and subsequently with the Women's Shelter Program Review, there are no clear time lines and benchmarks for the resulting recommendations, nor have community organizations been involved in an ongoing monitoring of progress.

States have a duty to prevent acts of violence against women; to investigate such acts when they occur and prosecute and punish perpetrators; and to provide redress and relief to the victims.

*Ending violence against women: From words to action.
Study of the Secretary-General, 2006*

Monitoring progress in our province is critical given Alberta's high rates of domestic violence. Over the last several years Statistics Canada has reported that this province has amongst the highest rates of domestic violence related murder-suicides, more women who report being stalked, more women who report domestic violence and a high number of family violence deaths. It is therefore essential to the health and wellbeing of women and their children that progress is continuously monitored to improve service provision. To help measure progress since the Alberta Roundtable, the Alberta Council of Women's shelters conducted a survey of its membership and some key stakeholders as part of a three-year funding project with Status of Women Canada called, *Raising the Stakes: After the Roundtable*.

Measuring the Progress - Methodology

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters is committed to a community collaborative response to improve the safety of women and children. We actively participated in the Premier's Roundtable in 2004 and the Women's Shelter Programme Review that followed. To measure progress in the implementation of the Roundtable recommendations, ACWS contracted Banister Research and Consulting Inc. to survey our members and key stakeholders. The survey also canvassed ACWS members on progress following the Women's Shelter Program Review. The entire report, *Alberta Council of Women's Shelters Progress Report on Government Recommendations Relating to Shelters*, can be found in Appendix 1.³

We were interested in shelters' experiences since these two significant provincial initiatives were undertaken. Many of the recommendations identified the multiple barriers women face when leaving abusive relationships, such as:⁴

- lack of safe and affordable housing, legal assistance and financial support;

³ It should be noted that given the high turnover of staff in shelter, there was a high percentage of individuals who felt they were unable to appropriately comment on progress. This itself an indicator of need for adequate predictable shelter funding.

⁴ Finding Solutions Together (2004); Women's Shelter Program Review (2006). Access full reports at www.acws.ca

- failure to recognize their risk of re-assault and death by police and other service providers; and
- threats to their children.

This report frames Alberta’s progress made on recommendations emerging from the two initiatives in the context of key areas for action identified in CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Real voices of Alberta women offer commentary on services throughout the report. These voices were captured in *The Healing Journey*, a three province longitudinal study of women leaving an abusive relationship. ACWS has been a community partner in this project over the last 5 years.

125 (a) Provide well-funded shelters and relief support for girls and women subjected to violence, as well as medical, psychological and other counselling services and free or low-cost legal aid, where it is needed, as well as appropriate assistance to enable them to find a means of subsistence;

Beijing Platform for Action

Well-funded shelters

What does a well-funded shelter mean? At ACWS, we believe shelters should be resourced to meet our aspirational standards⁵ in offering a continuum of services from prevention to follow-up. At minimum, there should be:

- sufficient bedrooms in emergency shelters and sufficient apartments in second stage to meet the needs of abused women in the community;
- specialized services for those women with multiple and complex needs (women with disabilities, aboriginal women, immigration issues, trafficking, trauma, etc);
- adequate staffing levels with ongoing training, with staff receiving the necessary training and support to address multiple and complex needs;
- danger/risk assessment and safety planning for women and children;
- crisis support;
- access to legal advice and other support services, including financial support when leaving shelter;
- follow-up services for women who leave shelter;

Fundraising, staff salaries and recruitment were consistently ranked by shelters as their most significant operating pressures, followed by rising insurance and utilities costs.

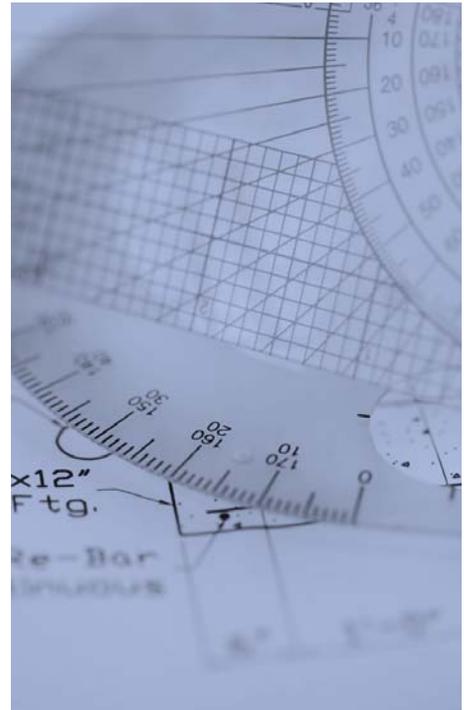
Page 16, Women’s Shelter Program Review

⁵ See ACWS Ethical Moral Framework and associated Aspirational Service Standards (www.acws.ca)

- adequate transportation, not only to and from shelter but also so that women can attend to their legal, emotional, housing and financial needs that require leaving the shelter as well as the needs of their children;
- compensation levels that enable shelters to attract and retain competent staff; and
- training and support for volunteer board members.

Progress on Shelter Funding

Shelter staff and boards work hard to fundraise necessary dollars to operate shelters for abused women. Through the Women’s Shelter Program Review consultation process (2005-06) shelters and service providers identified shelters’ key success as their ability to continue to provide safe short-term accommodation for victims of family violence, increased service capacity through the new outreach positions, leading and/or partnering in collaborative efforts within the community, public education and awareness activities and increased fundraising efforts to enable a greater range and enhancement of shelter services.⁶



Shelters continually put forward their case on the need for adequate funding from the province. It should be noted that this review was conducted with respect to shelters falling under provincial funding authority. As a result, the significant challenges and associated human rights violations faced by on reserve shelters in Alberta is not addressed in this report as they are funded by the federal government.

In looking at progress over the past five years we have seen:

The number of funded beds increased: Since the Premier’s Roundtable on Family Violence, the Province of Alberta increased the number of funded beds throughout the province by 79. While this did not significantly increase the capacity in the system, as under-resourced shelters were already providing these beds, it did improve the funding base for many shelters. It is still all too common however, that in certain areas of the province women are regularly “turned away” as shelters do not have sufficient capacity.

Position increases: The Province of Alberta increased funding for shelters to provide for one funded outreach position for each shelter. The funding of the outreach position was welcomed by shelters across the province. This move contributed to a reduction in the number of women turned away from shelter and the number of crisis calls. However, there still exists a strong need for outreach programmes and in particular, specialized approaches for minority groups and other individuals who face difficulty in accessing services. This is

⁶ Women’s Shelter Program Review, Page 14

particularly true for Aboriginal women, who comprise approximately one half of the women accessing emergency shelters - yet Aboriginal people account for approximately 6 per cent of the population in Alberta. This points to the overwhelming requirement for specialized services to meet the needs of this population.

Salary Increases: The Provincial Government has set a pay grid for funding shelter salaries. Shelter staff received salary adjustments to this grid each year since the Roundtable, however given the low starting point followed by the significant boom which hit Alberta, shelters found it exceedingly difficult to retain and recruit staff due to low salary levels. For example, an outreach worker with a shelter was getting approximately \$25,000 less than a counterpart with similar qualifications working for AADAAC⁷. When health benefits, holidays, educational leave and pensions are considered, the gap was even more significant. As a result, shelters have experienced high turnover and have generally seen a de-skilling of shelter positions due to a lack of appropriate compensation levels.



“Pay staff so there is less turnover.”

- Healing Journey participant

Shelter directors interviewed for the qualitative analysis conducted for the *Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters Progress Report on Government Recommendations Relating to Shelters* continue to identify that their shelter(s) often have to fundraise to provide service; have inadequate resources to hire, retain and train staff and need funding for community-based programs.

While we have seen progress in shelter funding, we cannot say that in 2009 shelters are well-funded since they continue to struggle to meet the needs of both the women and children coming to shelter - as well as the needs of their staff, who are under-paid for the work they do. Indeed, more than half (53%) of respondents to the Banister survey provided a *low rating with regards to the accuracy* of the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Division’s assessment of operating pressures in their shelter (Appendix 1, page 45).

⁷ AADAAC was the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission

Communal Living: A recommendation coming out of the Women’s Shelter Program Review was to address the challenges of a communal living environment. Only 7% of survey respondents indicated that they had received support to address these challenges from government. It should be noted that the high useage of shelters results in considerable wear and tear on shelter facilities. As noted as part of the qualitative interviews, current funding for operations is inadequate - let alone finding the funds to support the ongoing maintenance of the shelter facility.

"Communal living is crappy."

- Healing Journey participant"

Progress on Medical, Psychological and Other Counselling Services

When shelter directors and stakeholders were asked what required more attention and progress, the need for improved services was frequently cited.

As part of the Healing Journey, 100% of the women commented on the need for counselling services:

"there are not enough resources and enough places to go for counselling."

"nothing available to help women once they are not in abusive relationship. "

"You have to pay for outside counselling."

A frequent challenge for shelter staff is the difficulty in accessing mental health services for women who have left an abusive relationship.

Right to adequate standards of health and medical treatment,

CEDAW, Article 12, 1

Actions to be taken: Strategic Objective C1 106q,

Integrate mental health services into primary health-care systems or other appropriate levels, develop supportive programmes and train primary health workers to recognize and care for girls and women of all ages who have experienced any form of violence especially domestic violence, sexual abuse or other abuse resulting from armed and non-armed conflict;

Beijing Platform for Action (Page 40)

26% of shelter directors identified that there had been no progress with respect to increased capacity (training, staffing), to provide one-on-one support to women and children with multiple and complex needs, including mental health and addictions issues.

The following chart gives a further breakdown of these responses (Appendix 1, page 63):

Increased capacity (training, staffing) to provide one-on-one support to women and children with multiple and complex needs, including mental health and addictions issues	Percent of Respondents (n=39)						Mean
	No Progress 1	2	3	4	Excellent Progress (5)	Don't know/ No Response	
	26	15	10	3	3	44	1.95

Legal Aid: When asked about the progress made in priority areas in new and enhanced client services, 21% of shelter directors identified that there had been no progress since the release of the Women’s Shelter Program Review with respect to access to affordable and effective legal support services.

Sadly, quick access to the legal system remains problematic. A severe shortage of legal aid lawyers in northern Alberta means a woman may have to wait 6 to 8 weeks for representation.

As part of the Practical Frameworks for Change Project, ACWS is working closely with 8 member shelters to improve access and has received a positive response. A specialized line to legal aid from the shelter (for both women and shelter workers), has recently been initiated and will be evaluated by legal aid and ACWS.

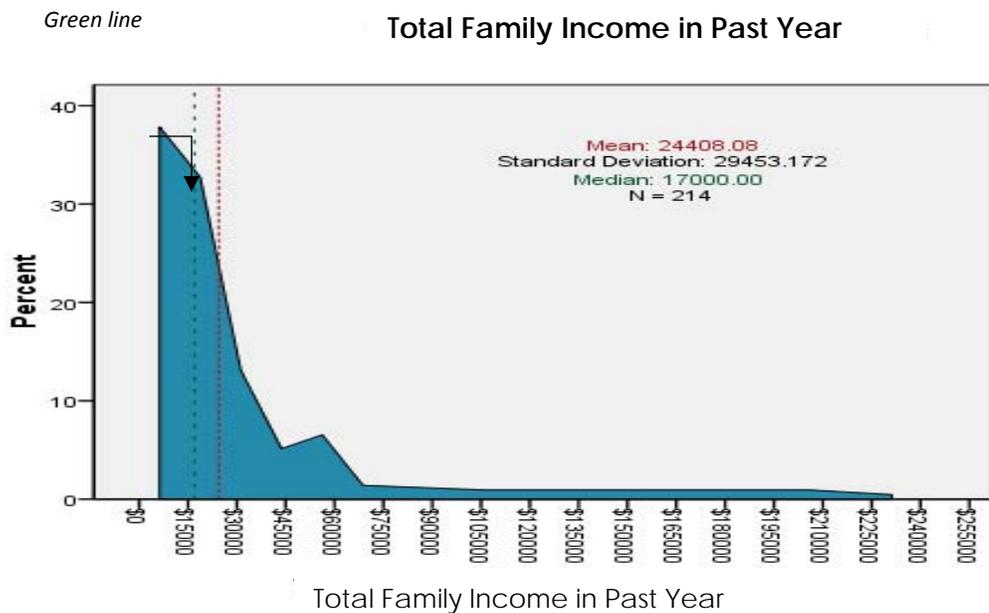
20.3% of Alberta women participating in the study reported having had difficulty in securing legal assistance/ representation

- Healing Journey

Assistance to enable them to find a means of subsistence: The Premier’s Roundtable on Family Violence identified the need to expand financial support to victims of family violence and abuse while the Women’s Shelter Program Review identified the need for affordable housing and transitional supports. More than half of all respondents (52%), stated that additional supports were provided since the Roundtable Report, with thirty-eight percent (38%) of valid respondents indicating these supports were highly effective. However, most of these respondents were referring to start-up funding only. Over the last 16 months, an average of 230 women each month received special benefits provided by the Alberta Government to assist in escaping violence.⁸ This represents approximately half of the average number of women in emergency women’s shelters in any given month. In addition, given Alberta’s high rates of domestic violence one can conclude that there are many other women in need of this benefit as it is not tied to a shelter stay.

⁸ Report from Alberta Employment and Immigration (see Appendix 3)

Women leaving shelter continue to cite lack of financial resources as a major reason for returning to their abusive partner. Further, interviews with participants in the Healing Journey revealed the abysmally low income levels for women leaving abusive relationships.



As can be seen from the green line above, half of the women in the study had a total family income of \$17,000 or less, while median income for families with two earners was \$87,000. Lone-parent families head by a woman were at \$39,800; “unattached non-elderly women” made \$28,700. No matter how you look at the data, abused women who have left their abuser had less than adequate income for themselves and their family.⁹

58.(m) Enable women to obtain affordable housing and access to land by, among other things, removing all obstacles to access, with special emphasis on meeting the needs of women, especially those living in poverty and female heads of household;

Beijing Platform for Action

“The greatest challenge clients face when re-entering the community after their shelter stay is access to/availability of affordable housing, followed by ability to provide the basic needs for family. Also noted as key challenges were ongoing legal issues, access to/availability of transportation and insufficient outreach support.”¹⁰

The Women’s Shelter Program Review recommended: *Work with government and community partners to develop affordable and transitional housing strategies to meet the needs of abused*

⁹ The Healing Journey, A Longitudinal Study of Women in Alberta Who Have Experienced Intimate Partner Violence, Presentation to Diverse Voices Conference, Radtke, Tutty and Reimer, Slide 19

¹⁰ Women’s Emergency Shelter Program Review – Final Report, Page 15

women and children. However, only 8% of survey respondents stated they have received support to identify affordable housing options, and only 4% stated they had received support to develop these options in the community by the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Division. Low mean ratings were also given with respect to improved access to safe, affordable housing.

In the area of housing, for instance, ACWS tracks women's exit surveys provincially to determine how this has been a factor in their decision to return to an abusive relationship. As well, annual reports from the government's own Facility Review Committee continually identify housing barriers. For instance, the 2007/2008 report stated, "Some of the women expressed concern about the difficulty they experienced accessing community services as well as the lack of affordable housing available once they left the shelters."¹¹ A similar comment was made in the previous year review, "The women expressed concern regarding the difficulties accessing community services due to a shelter's location and obtaining affordable housing or second stage housing after their stay at a shelter."¹² Housing remains a persistent, pervasive problem for women seeking to end their abusive relationship.

Second stage housing has been identified as a successful intervention for women leaving abusive relationships. Agencies running second stage housing programmes report excellent outcomes for women and their children. However, participants in the survey identified little progress on the Province's recommendation to conduct a cross jurisdictional analysis to assess the costs and effectiveness of second stage and other transitional housing programs and develop recommendations for next steps. No respondents had been part of an evaluation of second stage housing projects, which was to be part of the analysis.

In September 2009, the Deputy Minister of Alberta Children and Youth Services informed the ACWS Board that there would not be any additional funding made available for second stage housing. The province appears to have gone the route of a Housing First model, without considering the need for specialized interventions for abused women, nor that second stage housing is a proven intervention for high risk women and their children. Indeed, the ACWS report, *Assessing the Danger*, found that women in second stage housing were at an elevated risk of re-assault and death based on Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell's Danger Assessment tool. This finding supports the need for a secure, supportive environment.

"Social housing is located in bad places. I don't want my children in those areas. The standard is poor."

- Healing Journey participant

54 (a) Promote research, collect data and compile statistics, especially concerning domestic violence relating to the prevalence of different forms of violence against women, and encourage research into the causes, nature, seriousness and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of measures implemented to prevent and redress violence against women;

Beijing Platform for Action

¹¹ Social Care Facilities Review Committee • Annual Report • APRIL 2007 TO MARCH 2008, page 5

¹² Social Care Facilities Review Committee • Annual Report • APRIL 2006 TO MARCH 2007, page 5

Over the last several years, shelters have been supported by ACWS and the province to collect data on the HOMES database that includes aggregates of general demographics and specialist fields, such as:

- Police response: on assault charges laid, arrests, no response, follow-up, etc.
- My abusive partner lied to authorities, as ranked: police; child welfare; judge; my employer; medical
- Danger Assessment: risk of assault or homicide
- Exit surveys: changes as a result of shelter stay

While seeing the database as a difficult system, shelters generally have felt that there has been progress made in simplifying data collection and reporting.

124 (m) Ensure that women with disabilities have access to information and services in the field of violence against women;

Beijing Platform for Action

While it is known the women with disabilities are more likely to be abused¹³; only half of Alberta Shelters are wheelchair accessible and eleven have identified they have TTY. Most are able to provide accessible information. Shelter directors in parts of Alberta report difficulty in accessing home care and personal care attendants while women are in shelter. In the Healing Journey longitudinal study of women who had left an abusive relationship, it was found that 74.5% of the women had a chronic illness and disability with 40% identifying that it limited their employability.¹⁴ More than one third of the women in the study had at least one child with a disability, long-term illness and/or special needs. Three quarters of the women in the study had stayed in a shelter at least once. Clearly specialized funding is required to enhance the physical layout of shelters, shelter programs and the resources to collaborate with disability groups and service providers.

Strategic objective D.1. Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women

(p) Allocate adequate resources within the government budget and mobilize community resources for activities related to the elimination of violence against women, including resources for the implementation of plans of action at all appropriate levels;

Beijing Platform for Action

¹³ It is estimated that women with disabilities are 1.5 to 10 times as likely to be abused as non-disabled women, depending on whether they live in the community or in institutions. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/publications/femdisab-eng.php>

¹⁴ The Healing Journey, A Longitudinal Study of Women in Alberta Who Have Experienced Intimate Partner Violence, Presentation to Diverse Voices Conference, Radtke, Tutty and Reimer, Slides 22 & 29

Transportation: Survey respondents provided the lowest mean ratings with regards to progress made with respect to support for transportation. We can still say that the following observation holds true for shelters in the province: “Transportation was identified as a significant challenge for clients while in shelters, but also when attempting to enter or exit shelters. It is a challenge for clients to get to shelters when required and leave shelters safely, but also when searching for housing and accessing community services while in shelter.” This was seen as an issue across the province, but particularly challenging in rural and remote areas.

Create a single, cross sector agency: A “top priority” from the Premier’s Roundtable on Family Violence was the establishment of a single, cross sector agency to increase the profile, co-ordinate and provide province wide leadership in addressing issues related to family violence, with the establishment of an Advisory Committee reflecting the diverse range of community and service perspectives. One quarter of survey respondents stated that little or no progress has been made, while 46% did not respond. ACWS has long been on record on the need for the establishment of a Family Violence Commission. It should be noted that no single agency has been established and instead the Office for the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying was given the mandate to work with other government agencies to improve co-ordination. No Advisory Committee was ever established as contemplated in this recommendation.

Article 18

- 2. For the purpose of guaranteeing and promoting the rights set forth in the present Convention, States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children.**

Article 20

- 1. A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection**

Convention on the Rights of the Child

A key recommendation in the Women’s Shelter Program Review was to support shelters in supporting the diverse needs of children and youth in shelters. Slightly over half of the respondents in the survey were satisfied with progress made to date¹⁵. The province recently provided specialized supports for shelters to provide enhanced child support in shelter and additional training, which is viewed as a promising development.

There is still much that needs to be done and many of the actions identified are still valid. Additional focus must be placed on delivering programs that are targeted to meet the best interests of children and youth during their stay in shelter, as outlined in the Women’s Shelter Program Review Final Report and listed on the following chart.¹⁶

In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

*UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
Article 3(1).*

Needed programs	Needed facilities and staffing
CEFV intervention group	Outdoor play space
Child support	Play resources
Court support and child witness programs	CEFV intervention resources
Parenting support	Educational resources
Education provision	Age specific beds
Supervised playtime	Quiet space
Play therapy	Specialist staff
Babysitting	Tutors or education specialists
Counseling	
Group work	
Outreach/follow-up	
Special needs interventions	

¹⁵ Given the low number of survey respondents, caution needs to be exercised when interpreting these results.

¹⁶ Sierra Systems, 2006, p.26.

Article 12:

1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.
2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Women's Shelter Program Review identified the need for linkages with current Children's Services programs and partners, including the Alberta Children's Advocate, Alberta Family Justice Services and innovative community programs such as 'Speaking for Themselves'¹⁷, to ensure appropriate advocacy and representation are available to children in shelter.¹⁸ While progress was identified by shelters participating in the review, it was largely around the childcare initiative, staff increases and more funds made available through grants. There still remains a strong need to ensure that children are given the opportunity to be heard, particularly in terms of custody and access issues, where the child's and their mother's well-being can be threatened through court-ordered visits.

In relation to custody and access issues, the Premier's Roundtable recommended that collaborative efforts be advanced to ensure safe visitation and/or exchange supports are available for children whose parents/guardians have been or continue to be in an abusive relationship.

45% of survey responses indicated that there had been progress in this regard. Indeed, the province has actively increased the number of safe visitation centres across the province from 1 to 5. However, shelter workers observe that there is still significant progress that needs to be made with custody and access - which creates enormous stress for women and their children. They cite a general lack of understanding by judges, child protection workers and lawyers on the dynamics of abuse.

"After a visitation he told me he wasn't going to return her. I had to wait to see if he would give her back at the end of the visit. He didn't, so the police had to coax him to bring her to a police station."

- Healing Journey participant

He took my son for full days 3 times -- my baby is breast fed.

- Healing Journey participant

¹⁷ A Calgary based program to support children being heard in high conflict custody and access disputes when domestic violence is present.

¹⁸ Women's Shelter Program Review Page 26.

Conclusion

Progress has been made on a number of fronts in Alberta with respect to achieving obligations under the international conventions. There has been movement towards well funded shelters by increasing shelter funding to cover costs of staff and adding more funded beds throughout the province. A current initiative to address the long term relationship between shelters and Alberta Children and Youth Services, we hope, will provide an impetus for a more predictable and adequate stream of funding. Shelters have also identified progress in areas such as bullying, improved regional co-ordination of shelters and funding of some of the basic shelter necessities.

However, much remains to be done on a number of fronts. Shelter directors identified the lack of resources, the need for general accountability for making change and a lack of progress for transitional supports (such as affordable housing), as reasons for not making headway as they had hoped.

Comments from women made during the Healing Journey study indicate that women describe shelter services as helpful and providing support, safety and assistance. Indeed, shelter services are amongst the most helpful services provided. Any critical comments were primarily directed at the under-resourcing of services, particularly with regard to accessing shelter services, staff training and the quality of physical space and child issues, especially around the lack of support for care of pre-school children. They also identified the need for additional staff training and the challenges of a communal living environment.



The optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with Canada as a signatory, gives individuals and groups of women the right to complain to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women about violations of the Convention. There are clearly a number of human rights violations that consistently occur in Alberta and we plan to begin a process of better understanding the conventions outlining women's rights in order to use international processes to improve conditions for abused women and their children.

Shelters have played a key role in actualizing the Beijing Platform for Action and we recognize our responsibilities to respect, empower and care for abused women and children seeking shelter services. Based on earlier discussions with the membership, ACWS will work to regularly monitor progress in achieving the promise of the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and the Women's Shelter Program Review. We will also contextualize it within a human rights framework. We believe that using a rights-based approach in concert with our ethical moral framework will contribute to our vision of a world free from violence and abuse.

**Alberta Council of Women's Shelters Progress Report
on Government Recommendations Relating to
Shelters**

Final Report

November 19, 2009



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ACWS Progress Report Survey

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In April 2009, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) contracted Banister Research & Consulting Inc. (Banister Research) to conduct a web-based survey with shelter directors, staff, board members, and ACWS stakeholders. The purpose of the study was to monitor the progress of implementation made on recommendations in both the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report (2004) and the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006).

Research objectives included the following:

- To assess the progress of recommendations made in the 2004 report Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying, on:
 - Establishing a single, cross-sector entity for province-wide leadership;
 - Providing additional support to families escaping family violence;
 - Expanding access to safe accommodations; and
 - Expanding the support that is currently available to victims of family violence and abuse.

- To assess the progress of recommendations made in the 2006 report Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report, including the following issues:
 - Affordable, safe, suitable housing;
 - Transportation for shelter clients;
 - Shelter operations;
 - Transitional supports;
 - Complex needs;
 - Children's needs and safe visitation;
 - Prevention, education and intervention; and
 - Priorities for new or enhanced services.

From April 28th to May 22nd, 2009, Banister Research conducted a web-based survey with 65 shelter directors, staff, board members and stakeholders of the ACWS. The survey consisted of two sections:

- Section 1 was designed to assess the issues and progress that had occurred in reference to the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report (2004); and
- Section 2 of the survey was designed to assess the progress that had occurred in reference to the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006).

While all respondents were encouraged to participate in section 1 of the survey, only shelter directors, shelter staff members or members of the board were given the chance to complete section 2 of the survey.

It is important to note that throughout the survey that a rating scale ranging from one to five (where "1" refers to the lowest rating and "5" refers to the highest rating out of a possible five) was employed consistently to assess respondents' opinions and perceptions (i.e. progress, adequacy, accuracy, satisfaction and effectiveness) in order to establish benchmarks.

Ratings of "1" and "2" represent low ratings of the items being measured (e.g. low satisfaction, low effectiveness) on the one to five scale. A rating of "3" is considered "moderate" while ratings of "4" or "5" are considered high ratings (e.g. high satisfaction, high effectiveness) of the items being measured.

Overall Trends

In general, respondents participating in the ACWS Progress Report Survey indicated that a moderate level of progress had occurred in reference to the both the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report (2004) and the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006). When asked to assess their level of satisfaction in regards to the progress attained in the areas measured, respondents reported only moderate levels of satisfaction. It is important to note, however, that many respondents chose not to respond to

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many of the questions posed in the survey, very likely due to a lack of awareness or direct experience.

Specific topic areas of the survey that garnered higher ratings or areas of success, as well as areas that garnered lower ratings or areas of improvement have been detailed on page 4, below and page 5 that follows.

Areas of Success

The following were identified as being areas of success, as they garnered comparatively higher ratings with regards to progress, satisfaction and support by valid respondents¹⁹. These specific areas included:

- Seventy-seven percent (77%) of respondents stated additional supports were provided to families escaping violence since the Roundtable report (page 13);
- Eight (8) out of the ten (10) respondents that applied to the Victims of Crime fund were successful in receiving funding from this source (page 24); and
- Ninety-three percent (93%) of respondents stated that they have the discretion and flexibility to grant extensions on the length of stay for women in their shelter(s) (page 41).

Areas of Improvement

The following were identified as being potential areas of improvement, as they garnered comparatively lower ratings with regards to progress, satisfaction and support by valid respondents. These specific areas included:

- Half of respondents (51%) reported a low rating of progress made with regards to the recommendation to establish a single, cross-sector entity for province-wide leadership (page 10);
- More than half of respondents (54%) reported a low rating of progress made with regards to the new policy for funding allocations that takes into account best practices (page 18);

¹⁹ The percentages detailed in the “Summary of Findings” have been calculated using only “valid” respondents and excludes those that provided a “don’t know” response or chose not to respond entirely. Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of “valid” respondents.

- More than half of respondents (68%) reported a low rating of progress made with regards to their local community expanding access to safe second stage housing accommodations (page 20);
- No respondents had been a part of an evaluation of second stage housing by the Province (page 26);
- Only 5% of respondents indicated they had been involved in the development of next steps regarding an evaluation of second stage housing in their community (page 27);
- Less than ten percent of respondents (8%) stated they had received support to identify affordable and transitional housing options in their community (page 28) while less than five percent (4%) of respondents stated they had received support to develop these options in their community by the PFVBD (page 29);
- Twenty percent (20%) of respondents stated their shelter had received support from PFVBD to work collaboratively in order to support abused women to safely stay in their homes (page 30);
- Nineteen percent (19%) of respondents stated their shelter was collaborating with PFVBD to explore collaborative options to better meet the needs of women in need and in crisis situations who are not abused but are outside of Children and Youth Services women's shelter program mandate (page 39);
- Eight percent (8%) of respondents felt PFVBD had raised the potential of additional support in order to address the challenges of communal living (page 42) while seven percent (7%) stated they had received additional support in order to address these challenges (page 44);
- More than half (53%) of respondents provided a low rating with regards to the accuracy of PFVBD's assessment of operating pressures in their shelter (page 45);
- Thirteen percent (13%) of respondents were satisfied regarding the support received from the government for cross sector training (page 53).
- Respondents provided low mean ratings with regards to the progress made in priority areas for new and enhanced client services, specifically in the following areas (page 61):
 - Improved access to safe, affordable housing (mean of 2.04 out of 5);
 - Increased capacity (training, staffing) to provide one-on-one support to women and children with multiple and complex needs, including mental health and addictions issues (mean of 1.95 out of 5); and
 - Increased support for transportation (mean of 1.86 out of 5).

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

In April 2009, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) contracted Banister Research & Consulting Inc. (Banister Research) to conduct a web-based survey with shelter directors, staff, board members, and ACWS stakeholders. The purpose of the study was to monitor the progress of implementations made on recommendations in both the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report (2004) and the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006).

Research objectives included the following:

- To assess the progress of recommendations made in the 2004 report Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying, on:
 - Establishing a single, cross-sector entity for province-wide leadership;
 - Providing additional support to families escaping family violence;
 - Expanding access to safe accommodations; and
 - Expanding the support that is currently available to victims of family violence and abuse.

- To assess the progress of recommendations made in the 2006 report Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report, including the following issues:
 - Affordable, safe, suitable housing;
 - Transportation for shelter clients;
 - Shelter operations;
 - Transitional supports;
 - Complex needs;
 - Children's needs and safe visitation;
 - Prevention, education and intervention; and
 - Priorities for new or enhanced services.

METHODOLOGY

All components of the project were designed and executed in close consultation with ACWS (the Client). A detailed description of each task of the project is outlined in the remainder of this section.

Project Initiation and Questionnaire Review

At the outset of the project, all background information relevant to the study was identified and subsequently reviewed by Banister Research. The consulting team familiarized itself with the objectives of the Client ensuring a full understanding of the issues and concerns to be addressed in the project. The result of this task was an agreement on the research methodology, a detailed work plan and project initiation.

The survey instrument utilized in the study was designed by the ACWS and Banister Research. In consultation with the Client, the questions were reviewed and the questionnaire was finalized. A copy of the final questionnaire is provided in Appendix A.

Survey Population and Data Collection

The on-line survey was available from April 28th to May 22nd, 2009. The survey was hosted on the Banister web server to ensure confidentiality of responses. A total population of 171 individuals identified by the ACWS were e-mailed an invitation to participate in the survey. In order to maximize the response rate, up to three e-mail reminders were sent to non-respondents over the course of data collection.

Banister Research received a total of 65 completed responses from the survey population. It is important to note that there were a number of factors that had the potential to impact the response rate of the survey including:

- The length of time that has passed since the implementation of recommendations from these reports;
- The incidence rate of Shelter Directors not serving in that role when the reports were first published; and/or
- A general lack of awareness of, and familiarity with, the reports being researched.

The results depicted in this report reflect an accuracy level or margin of error no greater than $\pm 9.6\%$ at the 95% confidence level or 19 times out of 20. It is important to note when considering the survey findings, the reader should note that the sample error tolerances associated as the size of sample sub-groups vary.

Data Analysis and Project Documentation

Tabulations of the detailed data tables have been provided electronically under separate cover. It is important to note that any discrepancies between charts, graphs or tables are due to rounding of the numbers.

Section 1 that follows provides a detailed description of the 2009 ACWS Progress Report Survey.

SECTION 1: Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying

All respondents (n=65) were instructed to complete Section 1 of the survey referring specifically to the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report (2004). This section of the survey contained questions designed to assess the progress made and consequent satisfaction regarding the implementation of recommendations made in this above noted report.

It is important to note that throughout the survey that a rating scale ranging from one to five (where "1" refers to the lowest rating and "5" refers to the highest rating out of a possible five) was employed consistently to assess respondents' opinions and perceptions (i.e. progress, adequacy, accuracy, satisfaction and effectiveness) in order to establish benchmarks.

Ratings of "1" and "2" represent low ratings of the items being measured (e.g. low satisfaction, low effectiveness) on the one to five scale. A rating of "3" is considered "moderate" while ratings of "4" or "5" are considered high ratings (e.g. high satisfaction, high effectiveness) of the items being measured.

There are two percentages detailed in many of the figures in Section 1:

- The percentages reported for "All Respondents" is based consistently on the total number of respondents that completed the survey (n=65) and includes those that provided a "Don't know " response or those that did not provide a response.
- The percentage reported for "Valid Respondents" have been calculated based on only those that provided a response to the question and excludes those that provided a "don't know" response or chose not to respond entirely. The number of "Valid Respondents", therefore, varies from question to question.

Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of "valid" respondents.

Establishing a Single, Cross-Sector Entity for Province-Wide Leadership

To begin the survey, respondents were asked to rate the progress that has been achieved on the recommendation to establish a single, cross-sector entity for province-wide leadership²⁰ (for an exert detailing the specific details of this recommendation, please see the footnote below).

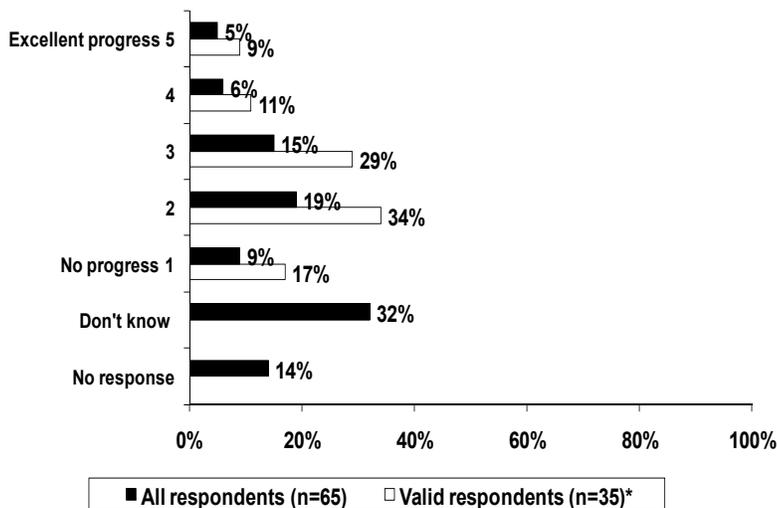
Eleven percent (11%) of all respondents felt that excellent progress had been made with regards to establishing a single, cross-sector entity for province-wide leadership (4 or 5 out of 5). Fifteen percent (15%) of respondents indicated that a moderate amount of progress had been made (3 out of 5), while 28% of respondents stated that little or no progress has been made (1 or 2 out of 5). It is important to note that 32% of all respondents provided a “don’t know”, while 14% of respondents did not respond at all.

Amongst those that provided a response (n=35), 20% indicated that excellent progress (4 or 5 out of 5) has been made with regards to this recommendation. See Figure 1, below.

²⁰ “Recommendation: One of the top priorities was the need for a single, cross-sector agency to increase the profile, coordinate and provide province-wide leadership in addressing issues related to family violence and bullying. As a first step, a Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Advisory Committee will be established. Members of the Committee will reflect a diverse range of geographic, community and service perspectives, as well as representatives from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, the Ethno-cultural Working Group and the Youth Secretariat. The Committee will develop options for the structure and responsibilities of a single entity and provide advice to the provincial government on implementation of this report. The Executive Director for the Prevention of Family Violence will provide support to the single entity and ensure coordination with government and community partners.”

Figure 1

Rating of progress achieved on establishing a single, cross-sector entity for province-wide leadership



Respondents were asked to detail the reasons behind their rating of progress regarding the recommendation to establish a single cross-sector entity for province-wide leadership.

Respondents that provided a low rating regarding the progress achieved (1 or 2 out of 5), frequently indicated that they were not familiar with the committee or entity that had been established (6 respondents), followed by a general lack of communication or the poor timing of communication regarding this entity (4 respondents) and the lack of visible change (2 respondents). See Table 1, below, for a list of all reasons provided.

Table 1

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a low progress rating (1 or 2 out of 5) for the recommendation of establishing a single cross-sector entity for province-wide leadership	Number of Respondents (n=18)
Not familiar with committee/there is no committee	6
Lack of communication/untimely communication	4
Have not seen any change	2
Would recommend this be community based (not government)	1

There is nothing in place that organizes community and government	1
Messages are negative/not helpful	1
Would like to know what is being done in Aboriginal shelters	1
Would like it to be quasi-independent (e.g. Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse)	1
Do not feel that there is a Provincial plan in place to address the issue	1
There is no support/resources available to outside agencies	1
Don't know/No response	1

***Multiple mentions**

Respondents that provided a moderate to high rating (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) of the progress made regarding this recommendation most frequently indicated the process is still in the development or early stages (2 respondents), that progress has been slow with a lack of significant outcomes (2 respondents) and there is inequality in shelter funding (2 respondents). See Table 2, below for a list of all reasons mentioned.

Table 2

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a moderate or high progress rating (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) for the recommendation of establishing a single cross-sector entity for province-wide leadership	Number of Respondents (n=17)
Appears to be developing/early stages/process has begun	2
Progress is slow/few or no significant outcomes	2
Inequality in shelter funding (some shelters have more than others)	2
Would like to know what is being done in Aboriginal shelters	1
Lack of communication/untimely communication	1
Have not seen any changes	1
Shelters not included in the process	1
Don't believe this will improve services	1
Need more educational opportunities	1
There is nothing in place that organizes community and government	1
There is a common voice that speaks to the issue	1
Don't know/No response	6

***Multiple mentions**

Providing Additional Support to Families Escaping Family Violence²¹

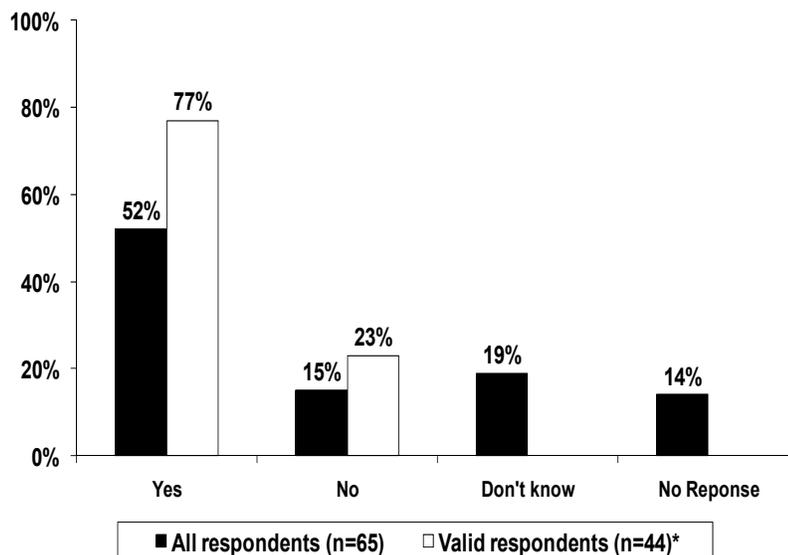
Next, respondents were asked if additional supports had been provided to families escaping family violence since the Roundtable report, in regards to the recommendation that transition funding is an important way of supporting families escaping violent situations (for an exert detailing the specific details of this recommendation, please see the footnote below).

More than half of all respondents (52%) stated that additional supports were provided since the Roundtable Report, while 15% of respondents stated that no additional supports have been provided.

Seventy-seven percent (77%) of valid respondents (n=44), or those that provided a response, stated that additional supports were provided, while 23% disagreed. See Figure 2, below.

Figure 2

Were additional supports provided to families escaping violence since the Roundtable Report?



²¹ Recommendation: Transition funding is an important way of supporting families escaping violent situations until they are able to get established in a new situation. Steps have been taken to streamline the process and respond quickly to the needs of families escaping family violence.

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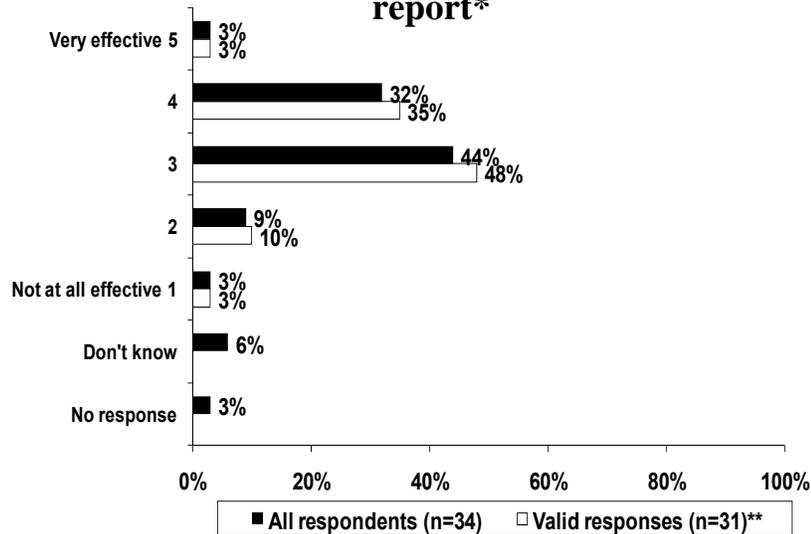
* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”

Those respondents that indicated additional supports were provided to families (n=34) were asked to rate the effectiveness of these supports. More than one-third (35%) of respondents considered these supports to be highly effective (4 or 5 out of 5), while 44% reported a moderate rating of effectiveness (3 out of 5). Only 12% of respondents provided a low rating of the effectiveness (1 or 2 out of 5) of the additional supports provided to families.

Thirty-eight percent (38%) of valid respondents or those that provided a rating (n=31), indicated these supports were highly effective. See Figure 3, below.

Figure 3

Ratings of the effectiveness of these additional supports to those escaping family violence since the Roundtable report*



*Base: Respondents that felt additional supports were provided to families escaping family violence since the Roundtable Report

** Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for selecting their effectiveness rating of these additional supports. Respondents that provided a low effectiveness rating (n=4) frequently indicated that while the additional funding is valuable and effective (2 respondents) there is a lack of support in general (2 respondents). See Table 3, below for additional reasons mentioned by respondents.

Table 3

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a low effectiveness rating (1 or 2 out of 5) of additional supports	Number of Respondents (n=4)
Funding is valuable/effective	2
The support is not enough	2
Hard to obtain the funds	1
Inconsistent criteria between offices/workers	1
Sustainable funding is needed instead	1
Funding is too sporadic	1

*Multiple mentions

Respondents that provided a moderate to high effectiveness rating (n=27) frequently highlighted that the start-up funding is helpful or useful (7 respondents), the funding being valuable or effective (6 respondents) and the inconsistency in the criteria between offices or workers (3 respondents). See Table 4, below for additional reasons mentioned by respondents.

Table 4

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a moderate or high effectiveness rating (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) of additional supports	Number of Respondents (n=27)
The start-up fund is helpful/useful	7
Funding is valuable/effective	6
Inconsistent criteria between offices/workers	3
The support is not enough	2
Outreach program is good	2
The fleeing violence benefit is a great help	2
Subsidized/second stage housing has not been addressed	2
Other (single mentions only)	13
Don't know/No response	6

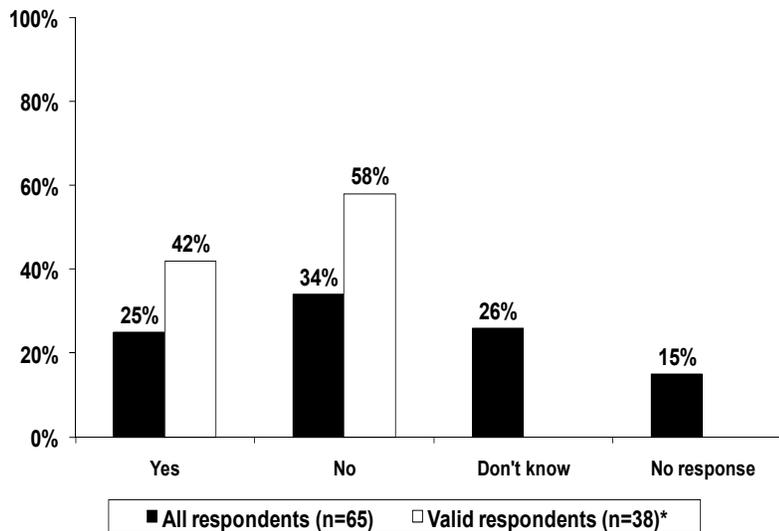
*Multiple mentions

Respondents were asked if the process had been streamlined and/or improved for families escaping violence. One-quarter (25%) of respondents stated that the process had been streamlined and/or improved, while 34% indicated that it had not.

Forty-two percent (42%) of valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=38) stated that the process has been streamlined and/or improved, while more than half (58%) felt it had not. See Figure 4, below.

Figure 4

Has the process been streamlined and/or improved for families escaping violence?

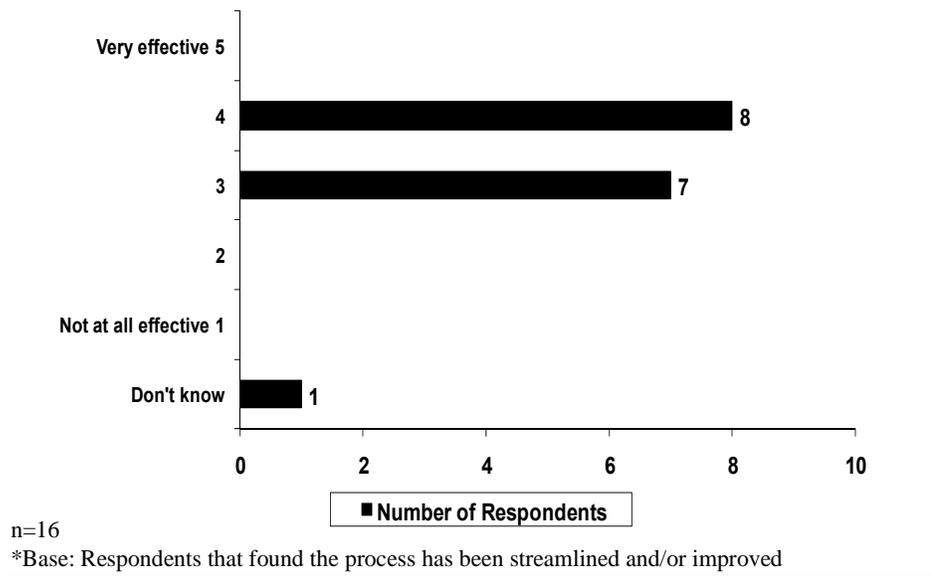


* Excludes "Don't know" and "No response"

Respondents that felt the process had been streamlined and/or improved (n=16) were asked to indicate the effectiveness of the streamlined process. Eight respondents (n=8) provided a high effectiveness rating, while seven (7) respondents reported a moderate rating of effectiveness. One respondent (n=1) was unable to provide a rating. See Figure 5, below.

Figure 5

Rating of the effectiveness of the streamlined process*



Reasons given for providing a moderate or high effectiveness rating of the streamlined process (n=15), included that it was easier for families to get financial support (2 respondents), followed by the need for more change (2 respondents). See Table 5, below.

Table 5

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a moderate or high effectiveness rating (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) of the streamlined process	Number of Respondents (n=15)
Easier for families to get financial support	2
Much more still needs to be done/need more change	2
Other (single mentions only)	11
Don't know/No response	7

*Multiple mentions

Expanding Access to Safe Accommodations²²

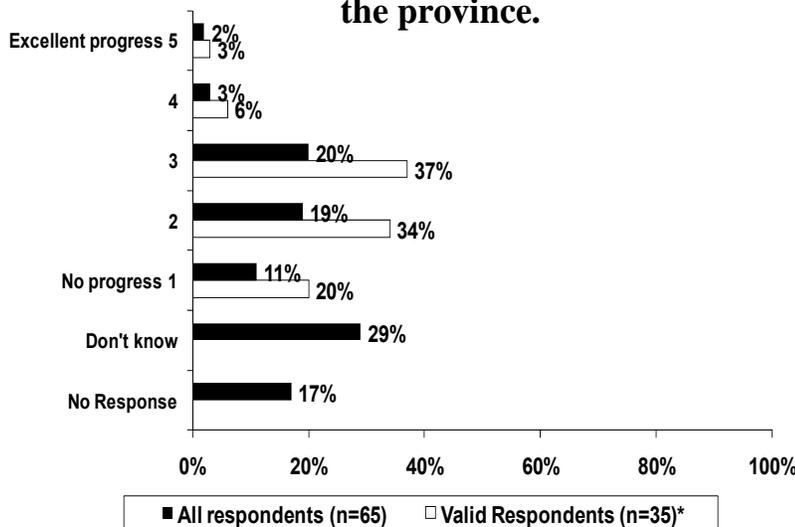
Next, respondents were asked to rate the progress made on the new policy of funding allocations that takes into account best practices (for an exert of the specific details of this recommendation, please see the footnote below).

Only five percent (5%) of respondents stated that excellent (4 or 5 out of 5) progress had been made with regards to this recommendation, 20% of respondents indicated that moderate progress had been made and 30% of respondents stated that little or no progress had been made.

Nine-percent (9%) of valid respondents or those that provided a rating (n=35), stated that excellent progress has been made. See Figure 6, below.

Figure 6

Rating of progress made on the recommendation that a new policy be developed regarding funding allocations that take into account best practices and needs across the province.



²² Recommendation: Work is underway to review current policy on funding for prevention of family violence initiatives including shelter programs and to establish criteria for funding new emergency safe housing options on a priority basis. The new policy will establish guiding principles and clear criteria for funding allocations and will take into account best practices and needs across the province.

* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”

Respondents were asked to indicate why they provided their particular rating of progress made on a new policy regarding funding allocations that takes into account best practices. Respondents that provided a low progress rating (n=19), most frequently indicated a need for transitional or second stage housing (6 respondents), followed by a lack of progress in general (5 respondents), and a need for more beds or increased funding for beds (2 respondents). See Table 6, below for additional reasons provided by respondents.

Table 6

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a low progress rating (1 or 2 out of 5) made on a new policy regarding funding allocations that takes into account best practices	Number of Respondents (n=19)
Need transitional housing/second stage housing	6
Have seen no progress/unsure of progress	5
More beds/funding for beds is needed	2
Other (single mentions)	10
Don’t know/No response	2

*Multiple mentions

Respondents that provided a moderate to high progress rating regarding this recommendation (n=16), frequently mentioned the need for transitional housing (4 respondents), a lack of progress in general (2 respondents), and that a large effort had been put into this recommendation (2 respondents). See Table 7, below for additional reasons provided by respondents.

Table 7

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a moderate or high progress rating (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) made on a new policy regarding funding allocations that takes into account best practices	Number of Respondents (n=16)
Need transitional housing/second stage housing	4
Have seen no progress/unsure of progress	2
Lots of effort have been put into this	2
Other (single mentions)	9
Don’t know/No response	5

*Multiple mentions

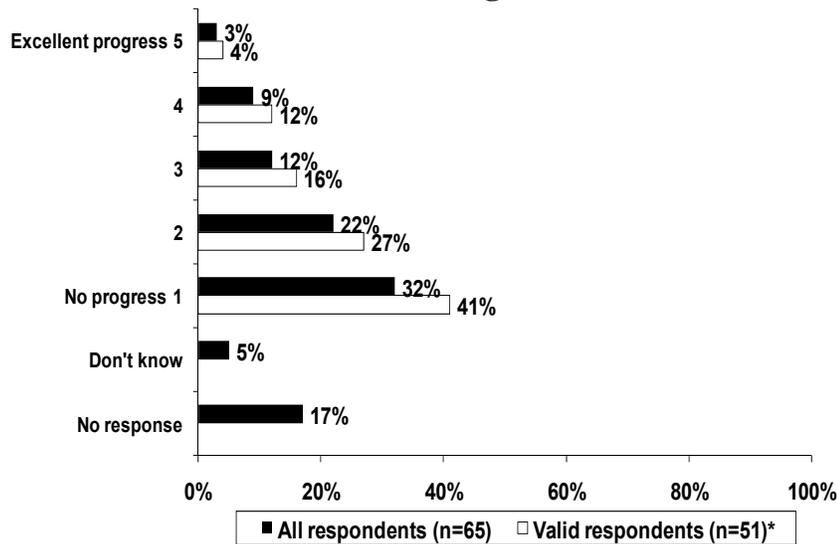
Respondents were asked to rate the progress that had been made in regards to the recommendation that their local community expand access to safe second stage accommodations²³ (for an exert of the specific details of this recommendation, please see the footnote below).

Twelve percent (12%) of respondents felt that excellent progress has been made regard to this recommendation, 12% reported a moderate level of progress had been achieved, while more than half (54%) of respondents indicated little or no progress had been made.

Sixteen percent (16%) of valid respondents or those that provided a rating (n=51) stated excellent progress has been made. See Figure 7, below.

Figure 7

Rating of progress made regarding the recommendation that your local community expand access to safe second stage accommodations



* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”

²³ Recommendation: In addition to the need for safe accommodation in emergency situations, transitional (or second stage) housing is often a need for individuals and families ready to leave emergency housing. Through the local community planning process, municipalities are encouraged to identify the need for transitional housing and to initiate transitional housing projects based on their needs.

Respondents were asked to indicate why they provided their particular rating for progress made in their local community to expand access to second stage housing (n=35). The general lack of second stage housing was highlighted by 26% of respondents as being the reason for providing a low progress rating. Other mentions included the lack of support by local council (9%) and a lack of funding available at facilities (9%). See Table 8, below for a list of all reasons provided

Table 8

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a low rating (1 or 2 out of 5) for progress made in their local community to expand access to second stage housing	Percent of Respondents (n=35)
There is no second stage housing/no progress	26
Local council is not supportive/not getting more affordable housing	9
We are not receiving funding at our facility/difficult to get funding	9
Need more emergency beds	6
Still lacking affordable/supportive housing	6
The need for second stage housing is critical	6
Other (single mentions)	35
Don't know/No response	14

*Multiple mentions

Respondents that provided a moderate to high progress rating (n=16), most frequently indicated that progress being made to receive or expand second stage housing (4 respondents) was the reason for their rating. See Table 9, below for a list of all reasons provided.

Table 9

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a moderate or high rating (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) for progress made in their local community to expand access to second stage housing	Number of Respondents (n=16)
Progress is being made to get/expand second stage housing	4
We are not receiving funding at our facility/difficult to get funding	1
Council has only drafted as letter of support	1
Getting support from council is not difficult	1
Need more emergency beds	1
Money is only being focused in Edmonton and Calgary	1
Dissatisfaction with lack of a provincial program to fund housing	1
Need more awareness in community of what second stage housing is	1
Homeless service providers don't address family violence/poverty issues	1

Needs to be a higher profile	1
Don't know/No response	7

*Multiple mentions

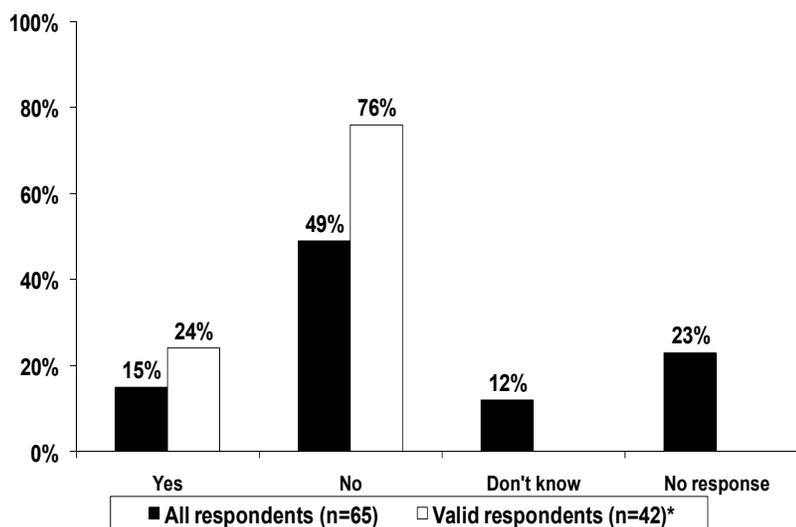
Expanding Support Available to Victims²⁴

As illustrated in Figure 8, below, 15% of all respondents indicated that they had applied to the Victims of Crime Fund, the fund designed to assist organizations that help victims of crime during their involvement with the criminal justice system, as per the recommendation detailed in the footnote below, while 49% stated they had not.

This percentage increases to 24% when considering only valid respondents, or those that provided a response (n=42).

Figure 8

Has your agency applied to the Victims of Crime Fund for funding?



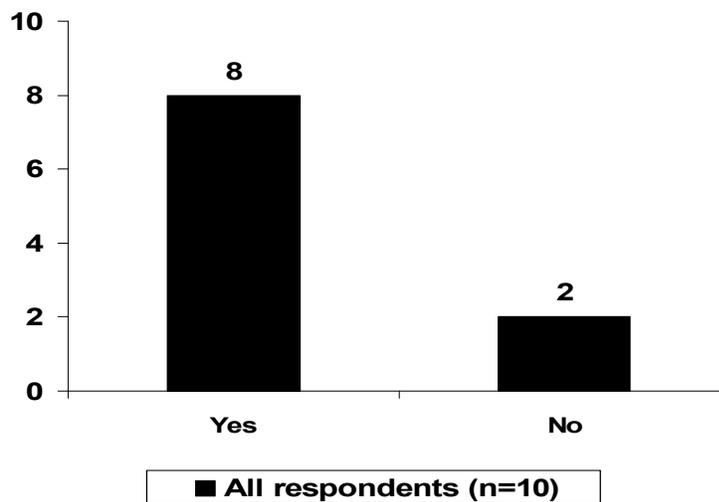
* Excludes "Don't know" and "No response"

²⁴ Recommendation: The Victims of Crime Fund is designed to assist organizations that help victims of crime during their involvement with the criminal justice system. Many of these organizations deal with victims of family violence. In the next two years, an additional \$1.6 million will be allocated from the Victims of Crime Fund to support victims, including victims of family violence.

Respondents that had applied to the Victims of Crime Funding (n=10) were asked if they were successful in obtaining funding. Eight (n=8) respondents indicated that they were successful, while two (n=2) reported that they were not successful in obtaining funding from the Victims of Crime Fund. See Figure 9, below.

Figure 9

Was your agency successful in obtaining funding from the Victims of Crime Fund?*



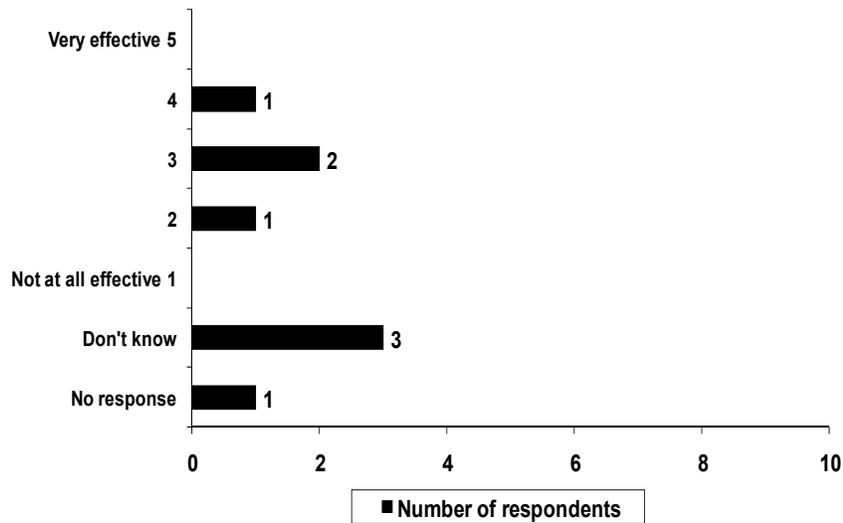
n=10

*Base: Respondents that applied to the Victims of Crime Fund

Next, respondents that indicated they were successful in receiving the funds were asked how effective the funding was for individual women using their agency's services (n=8). As depicted in Figure 10, below, two (2) respondents provided a moderate rating of effectiveness, while one respondent considered the funding to be effective (rating of 4 out of 5) and another respondent felt the funding was not effective (rating of 2 out of 5). Four (4) respondents were unable to provide a response.

Figure 10

Rating of effectiveness of the Victims of Crime Fund for individual women using your agency's services*



n=8

*Base: Respondents that were successful in receiving funding

SECTION 2: WOMEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER REVIEW PROGRAM

Only respondents that identified themselves as shelter directors, staff members or board members (n=39) were instructed to complete Section 2 of the survey referring specifically to the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006). This section of the survey contained questions designed to assess the progress made and consequent satisfaction regarding the implementation of recommendations made in this above noted report.

It is important to note that throughout the survey that a rating scale ranging from one to five (where "1" refers to the lowest rating and "5" refers to the highest rating out of a possible five) was employed consistently to assess respondents' opinions and perceptions (i.e. progress, adequacy, accuracy, satisfaction and effectiveness) in order to establish benchmarks.

Ratings of "1" and "2" represent low ratings of the items being measured (e.g. low satisfaction, low effectiveness) on the one to five scale. A rating of "3" is considered "moderate" while ratings of "4" or "5" are considered high ratings (e.g. high satisfaction, high effectiveness) of the items being measured.

Again, there are two percentages detailed in many of the figures in Section 2:

- The percentages reported for "All Respondents" is based consistently on the total number of respondents that completed the survey (n=39) and includes those that provided a "Don't know" response or those that did not provide a response.
- The percentage reported for "Valid Respondents" have been calculated on only those that provided a response to the question and excludes those that provided a "don't know" response or chose not to respond entirely. The number of "Valid Respondents", therefore, varies from question to question.

Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of "valid" respondents.



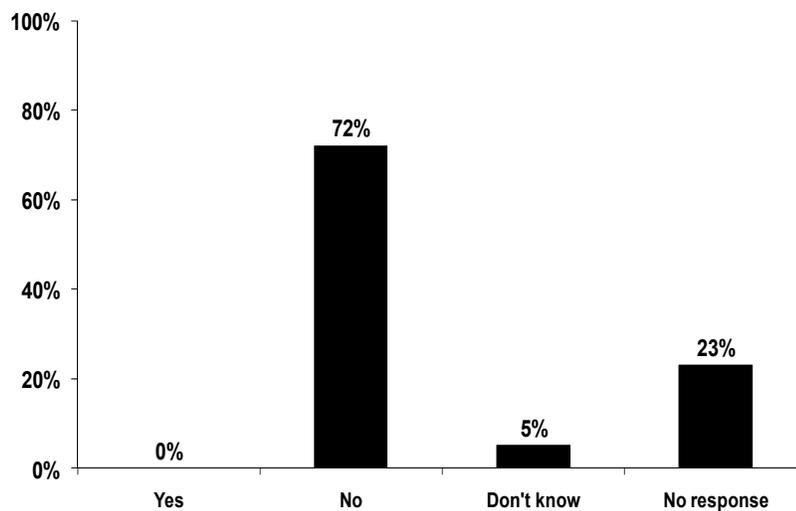
Affordable, Safe, Suitable Housing²⁵

As illustrated in Figure 11, below, none of respondents indicated that they had been part of an evaluation of second stage housing by the Province, while 72% reported that they had not been a part of an evaluation. Twenty-eight percent (28%) were unable to provide a response.

When considering only valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=28), all respondents (100%) indicated that they had not been part of an evaluation.

Figure 11

Have you been part of an evaluation of second stage housing by the Province?



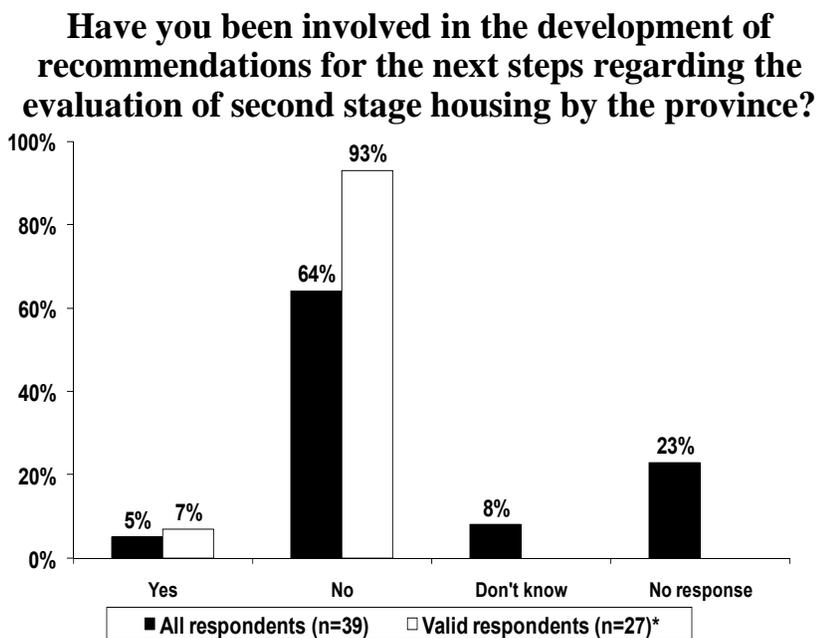
n=39

²⁵ Recommendation: Conduct a cross jurisdictional analysis to assess the costs and effectiveness of 2nd stage and other transitional housing programs; including an evaluation of the 2nd stage housing pilot projects in Edmonton and Calgary and develop recommendations for next steps.

Respondents were asked to indicate if they had been involved in the development of recommendations for the next steps regarding an evaluation of second stage housing by the province. Only 5% of respondents indicated that they had been involved in the development of the next steps regarding an evaluation of second stage housing by the province.

When considering only valid respondents or those that provided a response, 7% of respondents indicated they had been involved in the next steps of an evaluation. See Figure 12, below.

Figure 12



* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”²⁶

²⁶ Caution when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents

Respondents that were involved in the development of recommendations for the next steps of an evaluation of second stage housing by the province (n=2) were asked to explain how they have been involved See Table 10, below, for all reasons provided by these respondents.

Table 10

How Have You Been Involved?*	
Base: Respondents that were involved in the development of recommendations for the next steps of an evaluation of second stage housing by the province	Number of Respondents (n=2)
Involved through ACWS	1
Participated in the Roundtable	1
Meetings with Alberta Children and Youth Services	1
Letters to the Province with recommendations	1

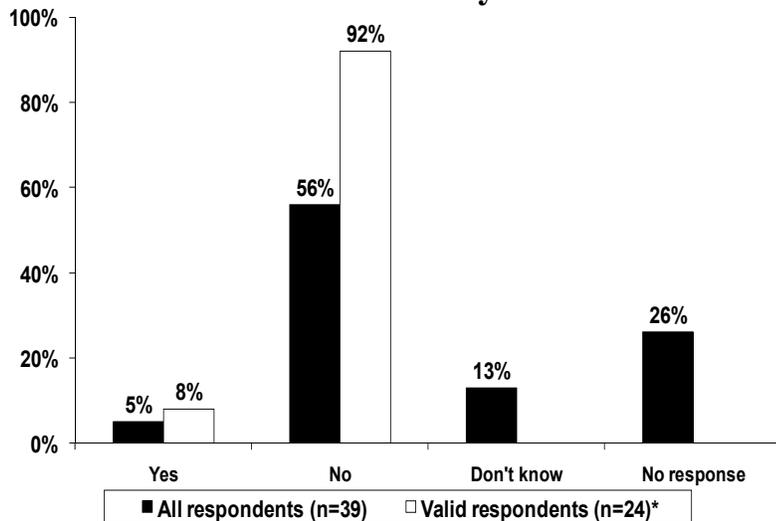
***Multiple mentions**

Next, respondents were asked if they had received support from the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Division (PFVBD) to identify affordable and transitional housing options in their community²⁷ (please refer to the footnote below for an exert regarding this recommendation). Only 5% of respondents indicated that they have been supported by PFVBD, while 56% reported they have not. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents did not provide a response or were unsure.

When considering only valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=24), only 8% had received this support, while the vast majority of respondents (92%) indicated that they were not being supported by PFVBD to identify affordable and transitional housing options in their community. See Figure 13, below.

Figure 13

Have you been supported by the PFVBD to identify affordable and transitional housing options in your community?



* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”²⁸

²⁷ Recommendation: Support and encourage municipalities, housing authorities, other community partners and shelters to work together to identify and develop affordable and transitional housing options at the local level.

²⁸ Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

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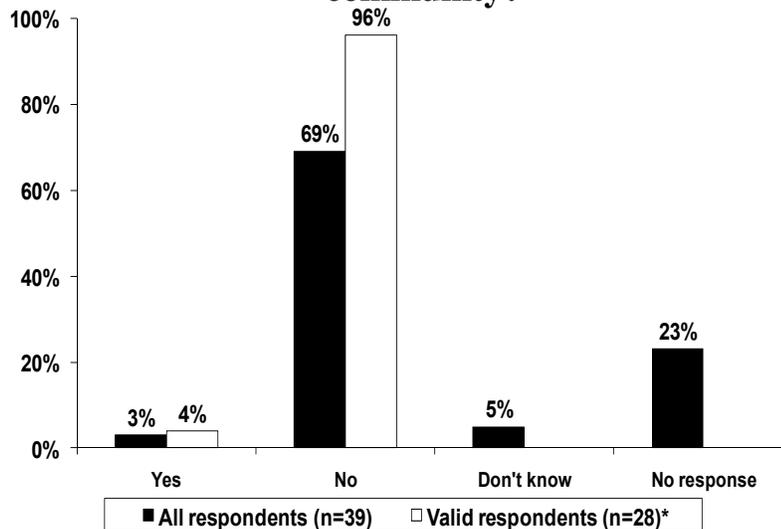
Respondents that indicated that they were supported by PFVBD (n=2) mentioned they received support in the form of encouragement to partner at the community level (n=1) and through crisis intervention workers working with spousal intervention teams (n=1).

Only three percent (3%) of respondents indicated that they had received support from PFVBD to develop affordable and transitional housing options within their community²⁹, while 69% reported they had not. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of respondents did not provide a response or were unsure.

When considering only valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=28), only 4% had received this support while the vast majority of respondents (96%) indicated that they were not being supported by PFVBD to develop affordable and transitional housing options. See Figure 14, below.

Figure 14

Have you been supported by the PFVBD to develop affordable and transitional housing options in your community?



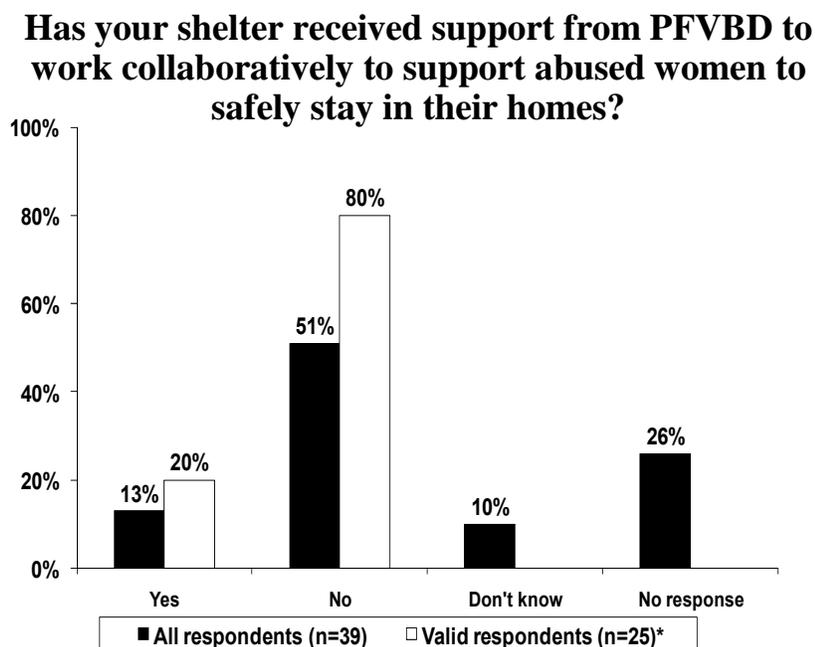
²⁹ Recommendation: Work with government and community partners to develop affordable and transitional housing strategies to meet the needs of abused women and children.

* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”³⁰

Thirteen percent (13%) of respondents indicated their shelter received support from PFVBD to work collaboratively together in order to support abused women to safely stay in their homes³¹ (for more detail regarding this recommendation refer to the footnote below). Thirty-six percent (36%) of respondents were unable to provide a response.

Twenty percent (20%) of valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=25) indicated that their shelter had received support from PFVBD, while eighty percent (80%) had not. See Figure 15, below.

Figure 15



* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”³²

Respondents that indicated they were supported by PFVBD (n=5) mentioned they received funding for outreach programs or workers (3 respondents), training sessions offered by the

³⁰ Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

³¹ Recommendation: Support shelters to work collaboratively with community partners to support abused women to safely stay in their homes, when they choose to do so.

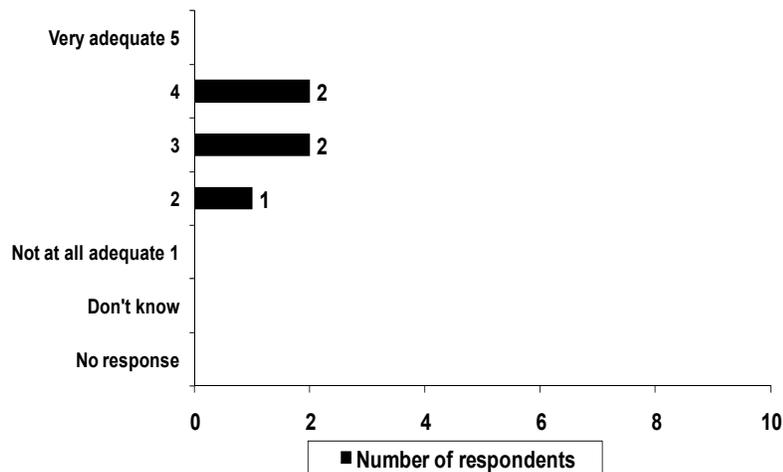
³² Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

RCMP or other service agencies (1 respondent), support by telephone (1 respondent), or received support through recommendations (1 respondent).

Respondents that indicated they had received support from PFVBD to support abused women to safely stay in their home (n=5) were asked to rate the adequacy of this support. As depicted in Figure 16, below, two (2) respondents provided a high rating of adequacy, two (2) respondents reported a moderate rating, while one (1) respondent provided a low rating regarding the adequacy of these supports provided by PFVBD.

Figure 16

Rating of adequacy of support received from PFVBD to support abused women to safely stay in their homes*



n=5

*Base: Respondents that received support from PFVBD to work collaboratively to support abused women to safely stay in their homes

The single respondent that provided a low rating for the adequacy of support received from PFVBD indicated that more outreach workers were needed.

Respondents that provided a moderate or high adequacy rating (n=4) mentioned that training was only part of the larger issue (1 respondent), that more resources were needed (1 respondent) and that information is sometimes sparse (1 respondent). One respondent stated they were new to the position (1 respondent) and unable to provide additional comments.

All respondents were then asked if they had any additional comments regarding the support offered from PFVBD. Ten percent (10%) of respondents reported they have had limited or no contact with PFVBD, while 5% mentioned they were pleased with the funding increases. See Table 11, below for all the responses provided.

Table 11

Additional comments about support offered from PFVBD*	
	Percent of Respondents (n=39)
Have had no contact with PFVBD/limited contact	10
Pleased with funding increases	5
No relationship beyond contracts/financial reporting	3
Not updated on achieving identity changes or transportation	3
Materials available that help public education and awareness programs	3
More transitional housing/transitional housing funding needed	3
They provide more hassle than support	3
PFVBD should work with on-reserve shelters and band councils	3
Have not received any support	3
PFVBD should look at shelters best practices	3
Participated on a ACWS task group with a PFVBD representative	3
Don't see PFVBD as an agency that tries to eliminate family violence	3
Don't know/No response	67

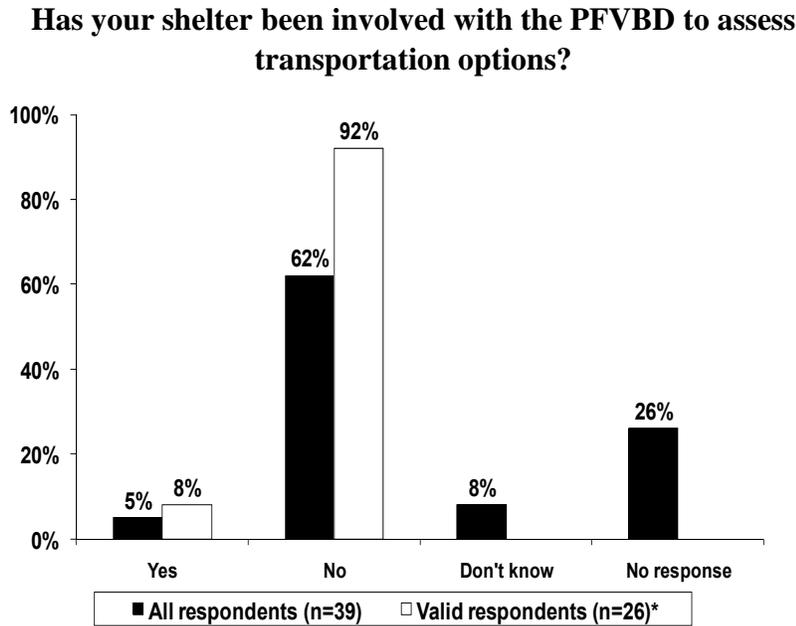
***Multiple mentions**

Transportation

Five percent (5%) of respondents indicated that their shelter had been involved with PFVBD to assess transportation options, while 62% had not³³ (refer to the footnote below for more information). Thirty-three percent (33%) of respondents did not provide a response.

Only eight percent (8%) of valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=26) stated that their shelter had been involved with PFVBD to assess transportation options. See Figure 17, below.

Figure 17



* Excludes "Don't know" and "No response"³⁴

Respondents that indicated their shelter had been involved with PFVBD to assess transportation options (n=2) mentioned that they received a budget to provide transportation for women in rural areas (1 respondent) or that they received a taxi reimbursement due to a lack of public transit (1 respondent).

³³ Recommendation: Assess transportation options to meet specific shelter service needs in urban, rural and remote communities.

³⁴ Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

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Respondents that had been involved with PFVBD to assess transportation options were asked to rate the adequacy of support received from PFVBD (n=2). One respondent (n=1) provided a low adequacy rating (1 out of 5), while another respondent indicated a moderate rating (3 out of 5) of the adequacy of these supports.

The respondent that indicated a low adequacy rating reported that the level of funding did not change (1 respondent), while the respondent that provided the moderate rating indicated that taxis only run during the daytime hours in rural areas (1 respondent).

Five percent (5%) of respondents indicated that it would be beneficial to be on the assessment team when asked if they had any additional comments regarding PFVBD assessing transportation options. See Table 12, below.

Table 12

Additional comments regarding PFVBD assessing transportation options*	
	Percent of Respondents (n=39)
Would be good to be on the assessment team	5
Needs work (unspecified)	3
Negotiate contracts based on actual costs	3
Alberta Works is supposed to fund transportation but they are not effective	3
Emergency Social Services has been good	3
PVFBD has not been helpful	3
The needs of second stage shelters are not recognized	3
Might be useful instead of building shelters in remote communities	3
Don't know/No response	80

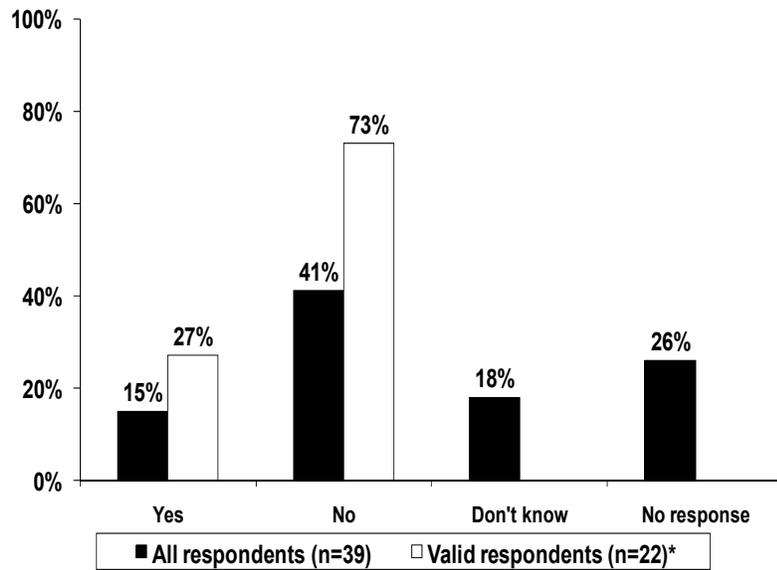
***Multiple mentions**

As depicted in Figure 18, below, 15% of respondents indicated they received dedicated resources to meet the transportation needs of clients to access the shelter,³⁵ while 41% reported that they did not. Forty-four percent (44%) of respondents did not provide a response or were unsure.

Twenty-seven percent (27%) of valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=22) stated that their shelter received dedicated resources to meet the transportation needs of clients.

Figure 18

Has your shelter received dedicated resources to meet the transportation needs of clients to access the shelter?



* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”³⁶

Respondents that indicated their shelter had received dedicated resources to address the transportation needs of their clients (n=6) were asked to describe what resources they had received. Four respondents (n=4) indicated that they received funding allocated towards

³⁵ Recommendation: Allocate dedicated resources to meet the transportation needs of clients attempting to access shelter.

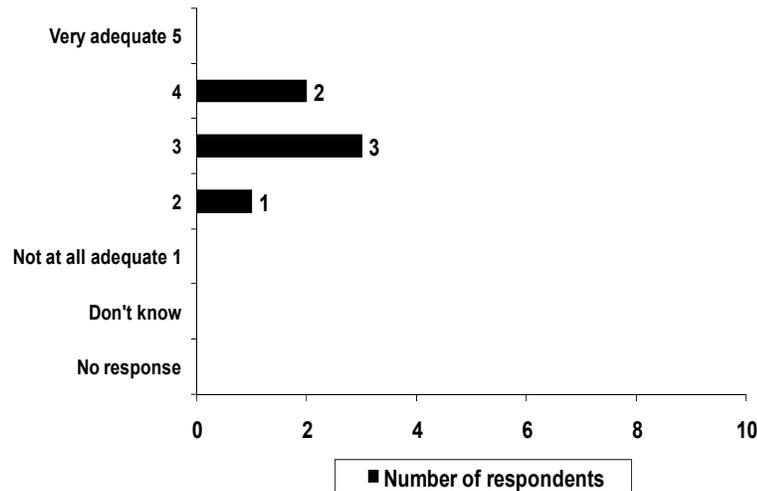
³⁶ Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

transportation, while other mentions included receiving a taxi reimbursement (1 respondent) and a budget for transportation costs (1 respondent).

Respondents that indicated they had received support in the form of dedicated resources to address the transportation needs of clients (n=6) were asked to rate the adequacy of these resources. As illustrated in Figure 19, below, 2 respondents rated the adequacy of these resources as being high (4 out of 5), 3 respondents provided a moderate rating (3 out of 5), while 1 respondent rated the adequacy of the resources as being low (2 out of 5).

Figure 19

Ratings of adequacy of the dedicated resources to meet the transportation needs of clients*



n=6

*Base: Respondents that received dedicated resources to meet the transportation needs of clients to access the shelter

When asked to indicate why they provided their rating, the single respondent that provided a low adequacy rating stated that the shelter had to raise funds in order to meet their transportation needs (1 respondent).

Those that provided either a moderate or high adequacy rating (5 respondents in total) mentioned that transportation in rural areas can be costly or complicated (2 respondents), there is a general lack of these resources (2 respondents) and that the current resources meet the needs of women in larger urban centres (1 respondent).

Shelter Operations

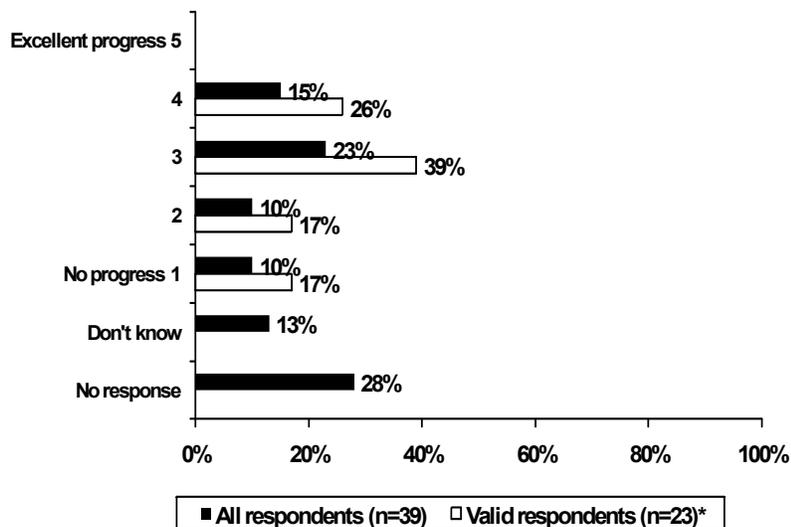
Respondents were asked to rate the progress made in simplifying data collection and reporting³⁷ (refer to the footnote below for further detail regarding this recommendation).

Fifteen percent (15%) of respondents indicated that excellent progress had been made, while 23% stated moderate progress made in simplifying data collection and reporting. One-fifth (20%) of respondents provided a low rating of progress achieved in simplifying data collection and reporting, while 41% of respondents did not provide a rating.

Twenty-six percent (26%) of valid respondents or those that provided a rating (n=23) indicated a high level of progress had been achieved in this regard. See Figure 20, below.

Figure 20

Ratings of progress achieved in simplifying data collection and reporting



* Excludes "Don't know" and "No response"³⁸

³⁷ Recommendation: Simplify and clarify data collection and reporting processes, including turnaways and exit surveys to streamline workload.

Respondents were asked to indicate why they provided their rating of progress made in regards to the recommendation to simplify data collection and reporting. Respondents that provided a low progress rating frequently mentioned the HOMES database was a complicated system and difficult to set up (2 respondents). See Table 13, below for a list of all responses provided.

Table 13

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a low progress rating (1 or 2 out of 5) for progress made in simplifying data collection and reporting	Number of Respondents (n=8)
HOMES database is a complicated system/difficult to set up	2
Financial accountability/reporting has increased	1
Client statistical reporting has decreased	1
There is confusion when reporting turn-aways	1
Have not participated in data collection	1
Have not seen documentation to support this	1
Needs to be some clarity to collection/input of data	1
Need to improve some areas of reporting	1
Don't know/No response	1

***Multiple mentions**

³⁸ Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

Respondents that provided a moderate to high progress rating (n=15), most frequently indicated that good progress had been made or that the steps have been simplified (3 respondents). Other mentions included that the process has been started but has not been made more efficient as of yet (2 respondents), and that the wrong questions are being asked during data collection and exit surveys (2 respondents). See Table 14, below for a complete list of the responses provided.

Table 14

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a moderate or high progress rating (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) for progress made in simplifying data collection and reporting	Number of Respondents (n=15)
Good progress/steps have been simplified	3
Process has been started but not made more efficient	2
Data collection and exit surveys ask the wrong questions	2
There is confusion when reporting turn-aways	1
Reporting is the same as before	1
Training on HOMES is provided by the province	1
Needs to be some clarity to collection/input of data	1
High turnover leads to too much time spent on training	1
Exit surveys still need to be done annually (yearly audit)	1
The government system seems to have difficulty accessing data	1
Don't know/No response	4

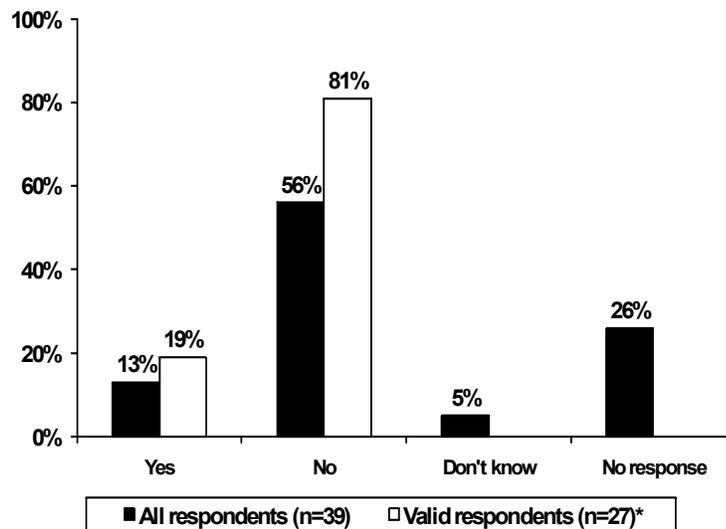
***Multiple mentions**

Respondents were asked if their shelter was collaborating with PFVBD to explore collaborative options to better meet the needs of women in need and women in crisis situations who are not abused and outside of Children and Youth Services women’s shelter program mandate³⁹. Thirteen percent (13%) of respondents indicated that their shelter was collaborating with PFVBD in this regard, while 56% indicated their shelter was not.

Nineteen percent of valid respondents (19%) or those that provided a response (n=27) indicated that their shelter was collaborating with PFVBD to explore collaborative options to better meet the needs of women in need and women in crisis who are not abused and outside of Children and Youth Services women’s shelter mandate. See Figure 21, below.

Figure 21

Is your shelter collaborating with PFVBD to explore collaborative options to better meet the needs of women in need and women in crisis who are not abused and outside of Children and Youth Services women’s shelter program mandate?



* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”⁴⁰

³⁹ Recommendation: Explore collaborative options to better meet the needs of women in need and women in crisis who are not abused and outside of Children’s Services women’s shelter program mandate for abused women with and without children.

⁴⁰ Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

Respondents that indicated their shelter was not collaborating with PFVBD to explore collaborative options (n=22) were asked to indicate why they had not been involved. Nine respondents (n=9) reported that they have not been invited to participate in the collaboration process, while two (2) respondents stated they have collaborated with other agencies in this regard. See Table 15, below.

Table 15

Why have you not been involved?*	
Base: Respondents whose shelters were not collaborating with PFVBD	Number of Respondents (n=22)
Have not been invited to participate	9
Have collaborated with other agencies	2
Focus is not second stage housing / breaking the cycle of violence	1
Was not part of the committee	1
Would need someone there to be involved	1
Only serve women and children who have experienced family violence	1
More services are being cut (rent supplement, welfare rates, housing)	1
PFVBD does not recognize funding support that is needed (housing)	1
Homelessness is a pervasive problem	1
Don't know/No response	6

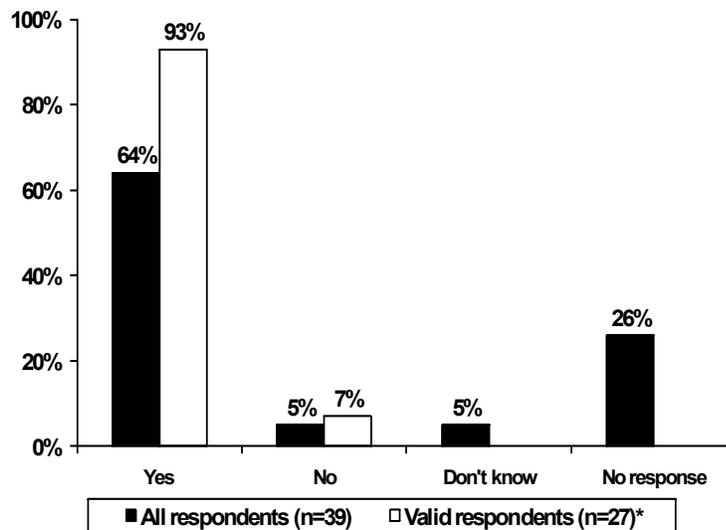
*Multiple mentions

As illustrated in Figure 22, below, almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents indicated that they feel they have the discretion and flexibility to grant extensions on length of stay for women in shelters, while 5% reported that they did not⁴¹ (refer to the footnote below for more detail regarding this recommendation). Thirty-one percent (31%) of respondents did not provide a response or were unsure in this regard.

Of the valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=27), the vast majority (93%) indicated that they feel they have the discretion and flexibility to grant extensions on length of stay.

Figure 22

Do you feel you have discretion and flexibility to grant extensions on length of stay for women in shelters?



* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”⁴²

Respondents that indicated they did not feel they have the discretion or flexibility to grant extensions (2 respondents) were asked why they felt this way. One respondent each stated that

⁴¹ Recommendation: Ensure flexibility and discretion for shelter directors to grant extensions on length of stay when women need more time to stabilize and transition back into the community.

⁴² Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

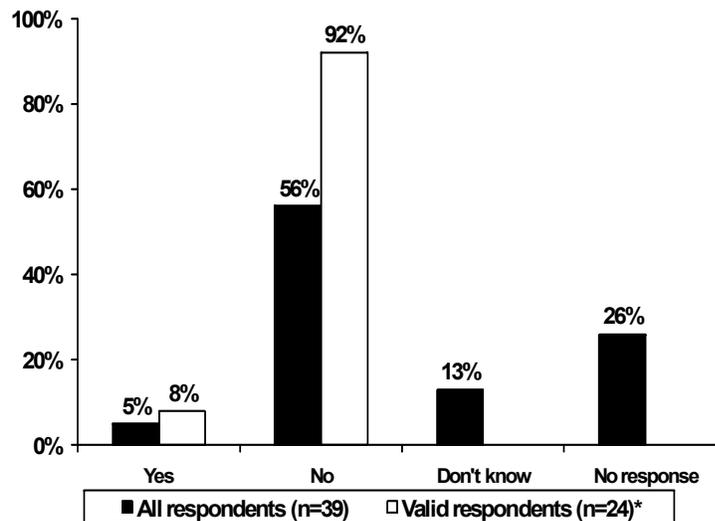
their shelter numbers would be down at the end of the year, that they only have a fee for service agreement with the Provincial Government and the maximum stay is only 21 days.

Respondents were asked if PFVBD had raised the potential of additional support in order to address the challenges of communal living⁴³. Five percent (5%) of respondents indicated that PFVBD had raised the potential of additional support while 56% of respondents stated they had not. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents did not provide a response or were unsure.

Eight percent (8%) of valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=24) indicated that PFVBD had raised the potential of additional support to address the challenges of communal living. See Figure 23, below.

Figure 23

Has PFVBD raised the potential of additional support to address the challenges of communal living ?



* Excludes "Don't know" and "No response"⁴⁴

⁴³ Recommendation: Explore opportunities for additional support to address challenges associated with a communal living environment.

⁴⁴ Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

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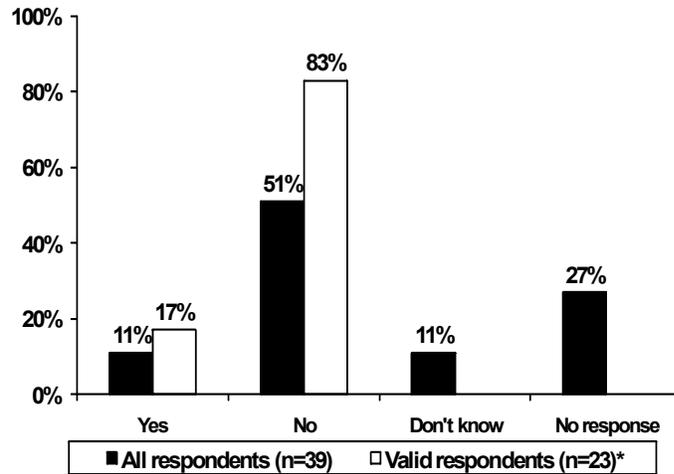
Those who indicated PFVBD had not, or were unsure if PFVBD had raised the potential of additional support in order to address the challenges of communal living (n=37) were asked if their shelter had raised this potential with PFVBD.

Eleven percent (11%) of respondents stated that they had raised the issue, while 51% reported that they had not.

Seventeen percent (17%) of valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=23) indicated that they had raised the potential of additional support in order to address the challenges of communal living. See Figure 24, below.

Figure 24

Have you raised the potential of additional support to address the challenges of communal living with PFVBD ?



*Base: Respondents that stated “No”, “Don’t Know” or “No response” when asked if PFVBD had raised the potential of additional support to address the challenges of communal living

* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”⁴⁵

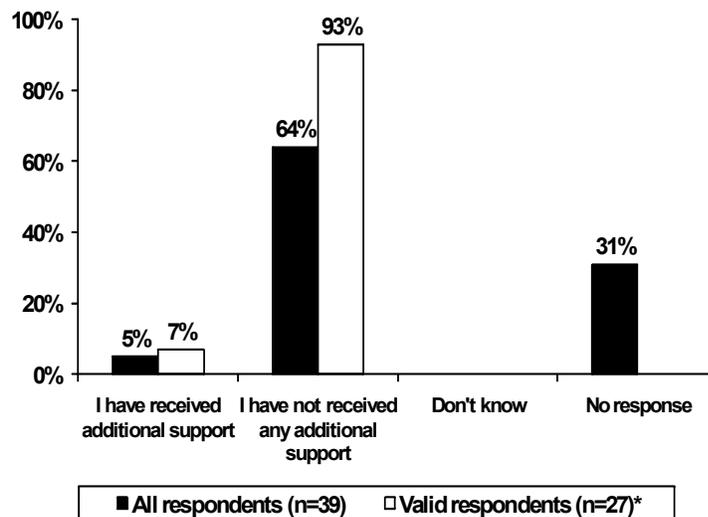
⁴⁵ Caution when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents

Respondents were then asked if they had actually received any additional support in order to address the challenges of communal living. Only five percent (5%) of respondents indicated that they had received additional support in this regard, while 64% of respondents stated they had not.

Only seven percent (7%) of valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=27) indicated that they had received any additional support. See Figure 25, below.

Figure 25

Have you received any additional supports from the PFVBD to address the challenges of communal living with you?



* Excludes "Don't know" and "No response"⁴⁶

Those that had received additional support (2 respondents) were asked what additional supports they had received. One respondent each indicated they had received a childcare grant and extra community information for their staff.

When asked to rate the adequacy of these supports, one respondent provided a low adequacy rating, as the additional childcare is only available for a few hours per week, while the other respondent provided a moderate rating of adequacy for these supports.

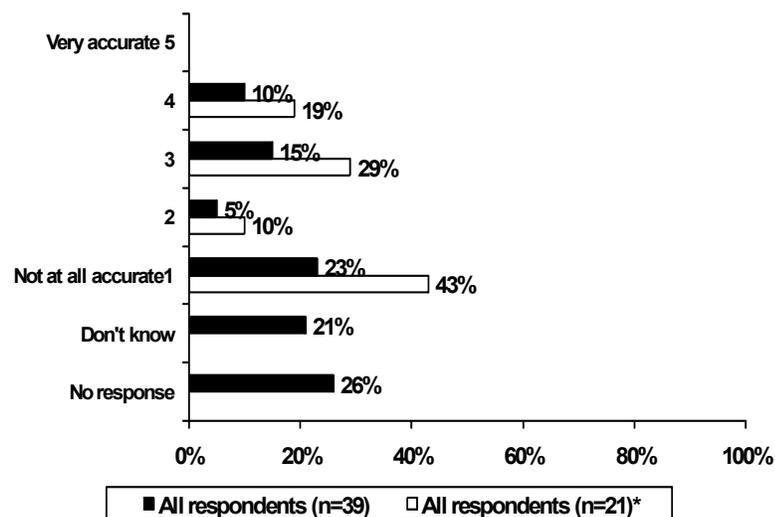
⁴⁶ Caution when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents

Respondents were asked to indicate the accuracy of PFVBD in their assessment of operating pressures in their shelter⁴⁷. As illustrated in Figure 26, below, 10% of respondents provided a high rating of accuracy, while 15% provided a moderate rating of accuracy. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of respondents provided a low level of accuracy regarding PFVBD in assessing operating pressures in their shelter. Forty-six percent (46%) of respondents did not provide an accuracy rating.

More than half (53%) of valid respondents or those that provided a rating (n=21) provided a low accuracy rating for PFVBD in assessing the operating pressures within their shelter.

Figure 26

Ratings of PFVBD accuracy in their assessment of operating pressures in your shelter



* Excludes "Don't know" and "No response"⁴⁸

⁴⁷ Recommendation: Assess operating pressures identified by shelters and allocate available resources to address priority areas.

⁴⁸ Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

Respondents were asked to indicate why they provided their particular accuracy rating of PFVBD in assessing the operating pressures at their shelter. Respondents that provided a low level of accuracy (n=11) most frequently stated that shelters were underfunded (4 respondents) and that they have not been assessed by PFVBD (3 respondents). See Table 16, below.

Table 16

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a low accuracy rating (1 or 2 out of 5) of PFVBD assessing operating pressures at their shelter	Number of Respondents (n=11)
Shelters are underfunded/not funded/no funding increase	4
There has not been an assessment by PFVBD	3
PFVBD urges spending on children less than 6 years old to be a priority	1
Dislikes the idea of women's shelter as equivalent to daycare spaces	1
We are an on-reserve shelter (unspecified)	1
Don't know/No response	1

***Multiple mentions**

Respondents that provided a moderate to high accuracy rating of PFVBD in assessing operating pressures at their shelter (n=15), most frequently stated that shelters are underfunded or not funded at all (2 respondents), while 6 respondents were unable to provide a reason for their rating. See Table 17, below.

Table 17

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a moderate or high accuracy rating (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) of PFVBD assessing operating pressures at their shelter	Number of Respondents (n=10)
Shelters are underfunded/not funded/no funding increase	2
PFVBD is not aware of the issues	1
Have not been able to allocate funds to priority areas	1
Don't know/No response	6

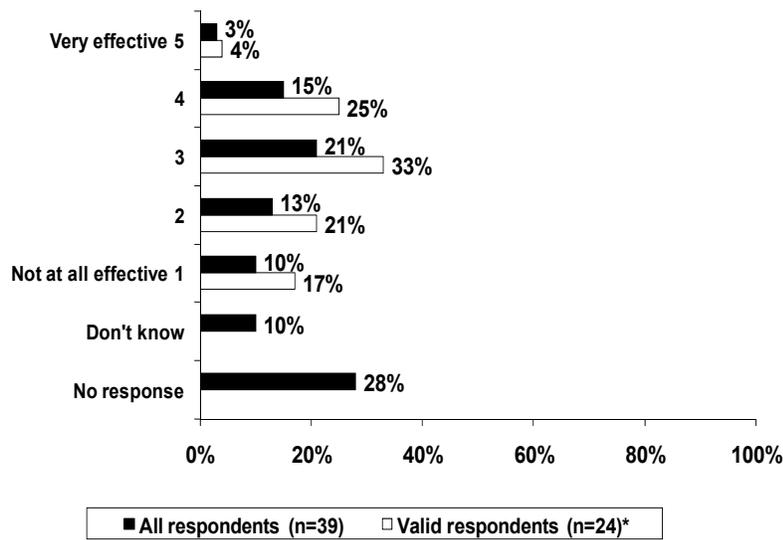
***Multiple mentions**

As depicted in Figure 27, below, 18% of respondents provided a high rating of training supports from the Province being effective in meeting the needs of shelter staff, while 21% provided a moderate effectiveness rating in this regard⁴⁹. Twenty-three percent (23%) of respondents provided a low effectiveness rating for the training supports from the province meeting the needs of staff, while 38% did not provide a rating.

Twenty-nine percent (29%) of valid respondents or those that provided a rating (n=24) rated the training supports from the province being highly effective in meeting the needs of shelter staff.

Figure 27

How effective are the training supports from the province in meeting the needs of staff for your shelter?



* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”⁵⁰

⁴⁹ Recommendation: Support shelters in meeting the training needs of staff, and ensure equitable access to training opportunities for shelters in rural and remote communities.

⁵⁰ Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

Respondents were asked to indicate why they provided their particular rating regarding the effectiveness of training supports from the Province meeting the needs of shelter staff. Respondents that provided a low rating of effectiveness (n=9), most frequently stated there is no training support provided (2 respondents), that there is a lack of funds allocated to training (2 respondents) or that it is too far or too expensive to travel to attend this training (2 respondents). See Table 18, below for a complete list of responses.

Table 18

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a low effectiveness rating (1 or 2 out of 5) of training supports from the Province meeting the needs of shelter staff	Percent of Respondents (n=9)
There is no training support	2
Not enough money allocated	2
Too far to travel for training/expensive to travel/can't find relief	2
Not aware of training opportunities	1
Provide own training	1
Training topics are strictly relevant to shelter/PFVBD contracts	1
Don't know/No response	2

***Multiple mentions**

Respondents that provided a moderate to high effectiveness rating (n=15), most frequently mentioned that it is too far or too expensive to travel to attend this training (4 respondents), while two respondents stated that opportunities for training are rare. See Table 19, below.

Table 19

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a moderate or high effectiveness rating (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) of training supports from the Province meeting the needs of shelter staff	Number of Respondents (n=15)
Too far to travel for training/expensive to travel/can't find relief	4
Few opportunities	2
Have leadership funding	1
Training topics are strictly relevant to shelter/PFVBD contracts	1
Funding is available	1
Staff attendance is mandatory/certification is kept up to date	1
Don't know/No response	6

***Multiple mentions**

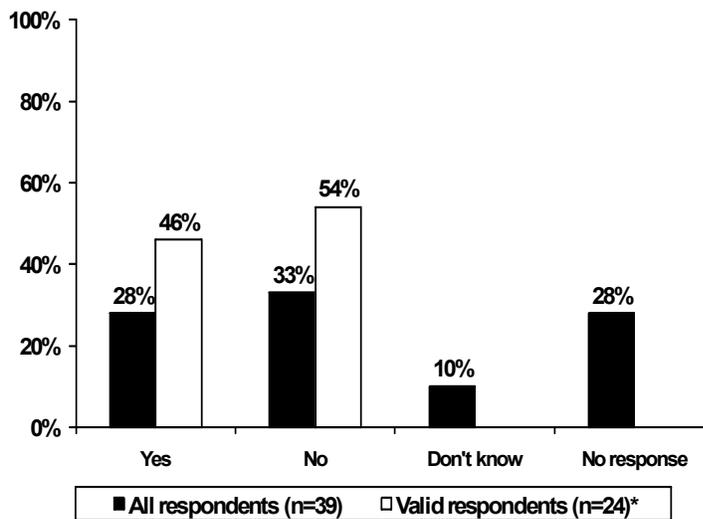
Transitional Supports

Next, respondents were asked if their shelter had worked with PFVBD to identify opportunities and challenges in order to enhance effective outreach service delivery⁵¹. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of respondents indicated that their shelter had, while one-third (33%) stated that their shelter had not identified these opportunities and challenges with PFVBD. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents were unable to provide a response.

When considering valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=24), less than thirty percent (28%) had worked with PFVBD to identify opportunities and challenges in order to enhance effective outreach service delivery. See Figure 28, below.

Figure 28

Has your shelter worked with PFVBD to identify opportunities and challenges in order to enhance effective outreach service delivery?



* Excludes "Don't know" and "No response"⁵²

⁵¹ Recommendation: Evaluate shelter and community outreach program data and assess key opportunities and challenges to building additional outreach capacity to work with women, children and other family members impacted by family violence who are not in emergency shelter.

⁵² Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

Respondents that had not worked with PFVBD to identify opportunities and challenges in order to enhance effective outreach service delivery (n=13) were asked why they had not done so. Two (2) respondents stated that the government provided funding for an outreach position, while another two (2) respondents stated that they have not had the opportunity to do so or had not received any communications in this regard. See Table 20, below for a complete list of responses.

Table 20

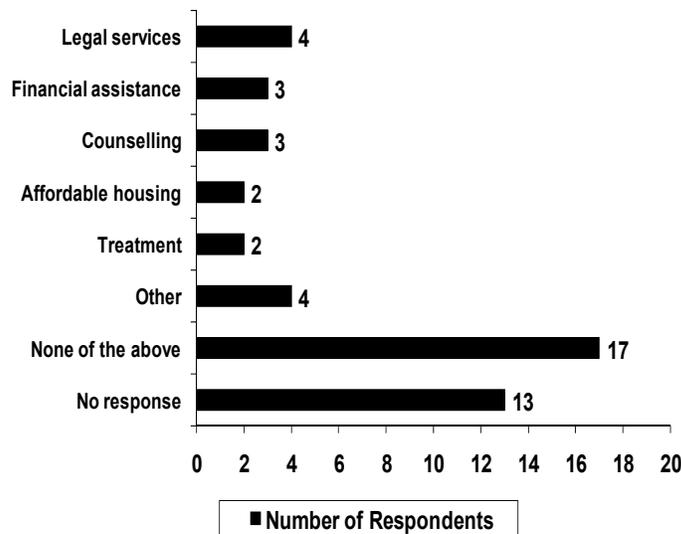
Why not?*	
Base: Respondents that had not worked with PFVBD to identify opportunities and challenges in order to enhance effective outreach service delivery	Number of Respondents (n=13)
Government provided funding for outreach position	2
Have not had the opportunity/have not received anything	2
Participated with others to develop a guide for new outreach workers	1
Not needed/have an outreach program already	1
Shelter does not have outreach capacity	1
More effective to work with other partners	1
Tried to contact representative but was not helpful	1
Don't know/No response	4

***Multiple mentions**

Respondents were asked to indicate which areas their shelter has worked with PFVBD in order to identify ways to enhance specialized supports⁵³. Four (n=4) respondents stated that they worked with PFVBD regarding legal services, followed financial assistance (3 respondents) and counselling (3 respondents). Two respondents each worked in the areas of affordable housing and treatment. Seventeen (17) respondents stated they had not worked in any of the areas specified. See Figure 29, below.

Figure 29

Which of the following areas has your shelter worked with PFVBD in order to identify ways to enhance specialized supports?*



n=39
*Multiple mention

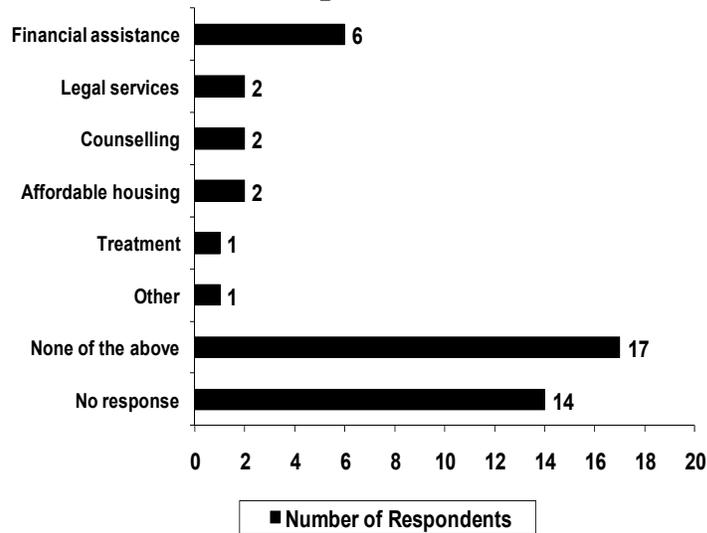
Respondents that mentioned they had worked in other areas (n=4) specified the areas of childcare (2 respondents), outreach (1 respondent), training opportunities (1 respondents) and arranged fees for a service agreement (1 respondent) as being the areas they had worked with PFVBD in order to enhance specialized supports.

⁵³ Recommendation: Work with shelters to identify ways to collaborate with community partners to increase the capacity to provide specialized transitional supports needed by women and children leaving shelter, such as safe affordable housing, financial assistance, legal services, counselling and treatment.

Next, respondents were asked to indicate the areas in which their shelter has received information and updates from PFVBD. Six respondents (6) reported that they had received information and updates about financial assistance. Two respondents each received information and updates in the areas of legal services, counseling and affordable housing, while 17 respondents stated that they had not received information or updates in any of the areas mentioned. See Figure 30, below.

Figure 30

Which of the following areas has your shelter received information and updates from PFVBD?*



n=39

*Multiple mention

Respondents that reported they had received information and updates from PFVBD in other areas (n=2) specifically mentioned childcare (1 respondent) and outreach (1 respondent) as being the areas they had received information and updates from PFVBD.

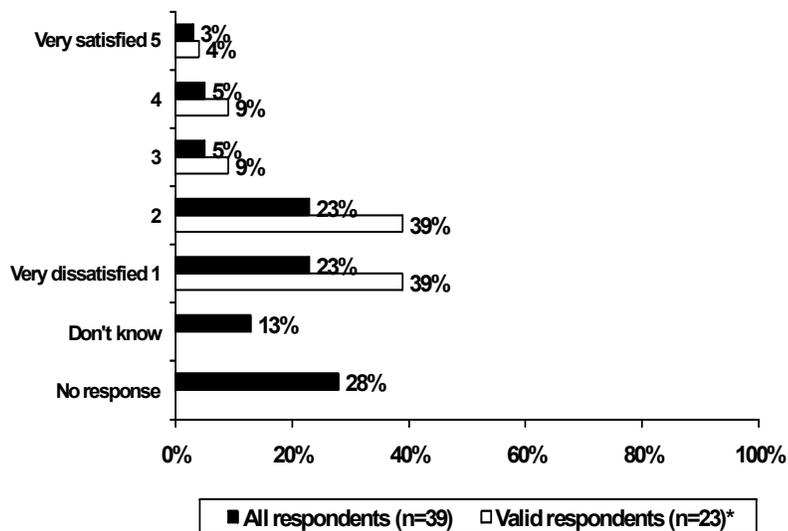
Complex Needs⁵⁴

As illustrated in Figure 31, below, only 8% of respondents provided a high or moderate rating of satisfaction (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) regarding the support received from the government for cross sector training to better meet the multiple and complex needs of clients, while 46% provided a low rating of satisfaction. Forty-one percent (41%) of respondents did not provide a satisfaction rating.

When considering only valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=23), only 13% of respondents provided a high satisfaction rating.

Figure 31

Ratings of satisfaction with the support received from the government for cross sector training to better meet the complex needs of clients



* Excludes "Don't know" and "No response"⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Recommendation: Support shelters to engage in collaborative cross sector training to better meet the multiple and complex needs of clients, such as mental health concerns, addictions issues, cultural barriers and post-traumatic stress.

⁵⁵ Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

Respondents were asked to indicate why they provided their satisfaction rating regarding support received from the government for cross sector training. Respondents that provided a low satisfaction rating (n=18) most frequently mentioned the lack of awareness and/or support for shelter staff (7 respondents), while six (6) respondents stated that training is rare unless organized internally or locally. See Table 21, below for a complete list of responses.

Table 21

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a low satisfaction rating (1 or 2 out of 5) regarding the support received from the government for cross sector training.	Number of Respondents (n=18)
Nothing is happening for shelter staff/not aware of any supports	7
Training is rare unless organized internally/locally	6
Funds not available/no funding	2
No attention focused on support in rural areas	1
Don't know/No response	3

***Multiple mentions**

Respondents that provided a moderate or high rating of satisfaction (n=5) mentioned training being provided for the staff (1 respondent), that some improvements had been made (1 respondent) and that the ACWS gave support to executive directors (1 respondent) as reasons for rating of satisfaction.

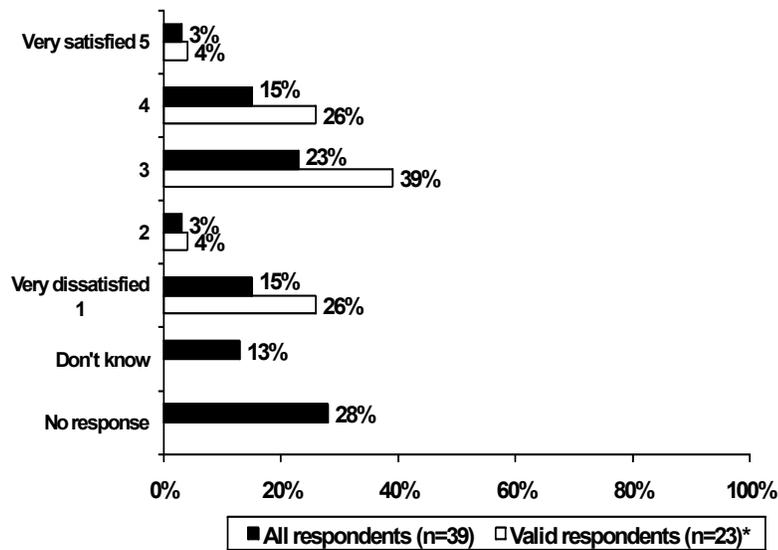
Children/Safe Visitation

Respondents were asked to provide a rating of satisfaction regarding the support received from PFVBD in meeting the diverse needs of children and youth in their shelter⁵⁶. Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents provided a high rating of satisfaction, while 23% provided a moderate rating. Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents provided a low rating of satisfaction, while 41% of respondents did not provide a rating.

Thirty percent (30%) of valid respondents or those that provided a rating (n=23) indicated they were satisfied (4 or 5 out of 5) regarding the support received from PFVBD in meeting the diverse needs of children and youth in shelters. See Figure 32, below.

Figure 32

Ratings of satisfaction with the support received from PFVBD in meeting the diverse needs of children and youth in shelters



* Excludes "Don't know" and "No response"⁵⁷

⁵⁶ Recommendation: Support shelters in supporting the diverse needs of children and youth in shelters.

⁵⁷ Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

Respondents were asked to indicate why they provided their particular rating of satisfaction regarding support received from PFVBD in meeting the diverse needs of children and youth in shelters. See Table 22, below, for the single mentions made by respondents that provided a low satisfaction rating (n=7)

Table 22

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a low satisfaction rating (1 or 2 out of 5) of support received from PFVBD in meeting the diverse needs of children and youth in shelters	Number of Respondents (n=7)
There has been no support	1
No funding for on-reserve shelters	1
Don't receive support from PFVBD (receive money elsewhere)	1
No support for qualified staff	1
Don't know/No response	3

***Multiple mentions**

Respondents that provided a moderate to high satisfaction rating (n=16), most frequently reported they had received grants or increased funding in this regard (6 respondents). See Table 23, below.

Table 23

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a moderate or high satisfaction rating (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) of support received from PFVBD in meeting the diverse needs of children and youth in shelters	Number of Respondents (n=16)
We received several grants/more funds made available	6
PFVBD brought new initiatives that would allow for an increase in staff	1
There has been no support	1
We are engaged in setting up childcare	1
Don't know/No response	7

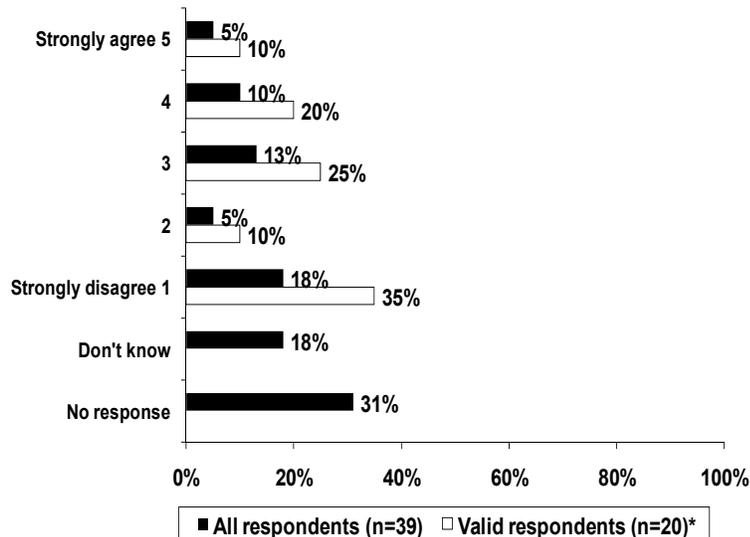
***Multiple mentions**

Respondents were asked to indicate their agreement with the statement “*Collaborative efforts to ensure safe visitation and exchange have been advanced*”⁵⁸. Fifteen percent (15%) of respondents provided a high rating of agreement, while 13% provided a moderate agreement rating. Twenty-three percent (23%) of respondents disagreed with the statement, and close to half (49%) of all respondents did not provide a rating.

Forty-five percent (45%) of valid respondents or those that provided a rating (n=20) stated a high level of agreement with this statement regarding safe visitation and exchange. See Figure 33, below.

Figure 33

Agreement with the statement “*Collaborative efforts to ensure safe visitation and exchange have been advanced*”



* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”⁵⁹

⁵⁸ Recommendation: Advance collaborative efforts to ensure safe visitation and/or exchange supports are available for children whose parents/guardians have been or continue to be in an abusive relationship.

⁵⁹ Caution when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

Respondents were asked to indicate why they provided their rating of agreement with the statement “*Collaborative efforts to ensure safe visitation and exchange have been advanced*”. Respondents that provided a low rating of agreement (n=9) most frequently indicated that there has been no progress or opportunity to access safe visitation sites in their area (2 respondents). See Table 24, below.

Table 24

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a low level of agreement (1 or 2 out of 5) with the statement “<i>Collaborative efforts to ensure safe visitation and exchange have been advanced</i>”	Number of Respondents (n=9)
No progress/no opportunity to access safe visitation sites in our area	2
Have not been included/recognized in collaborations	1
Don’t believe it is the shelters responsibility to provide safe sites	1
There is a safe visitation site in our community	1
Progress has been made (unspecified)	1
Lack of sustainable funding	1
Criteria for access to the program is too limiting	1
Don’t know/No response	2

***Multiple mentions**

Respondents that provided a moderate to high rating of agreement with the statement (n=11), most frequently indicated that there is a safe visitation site within their community (4 respondents). See Table 25, below.

Table 25

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a moderate or high level of agreement (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) with the statement “<i>Collaborative efforts to ensure safe visitation and exchange have been advanced</i>”	Number of Respondents (n=11)
There is a safe visitation site in our community	4
Have not been included/recognized in collaborations	1
Have not seen anything	1
Safe visitation sites are being funded across the Province	1
Don’t know/No response	4

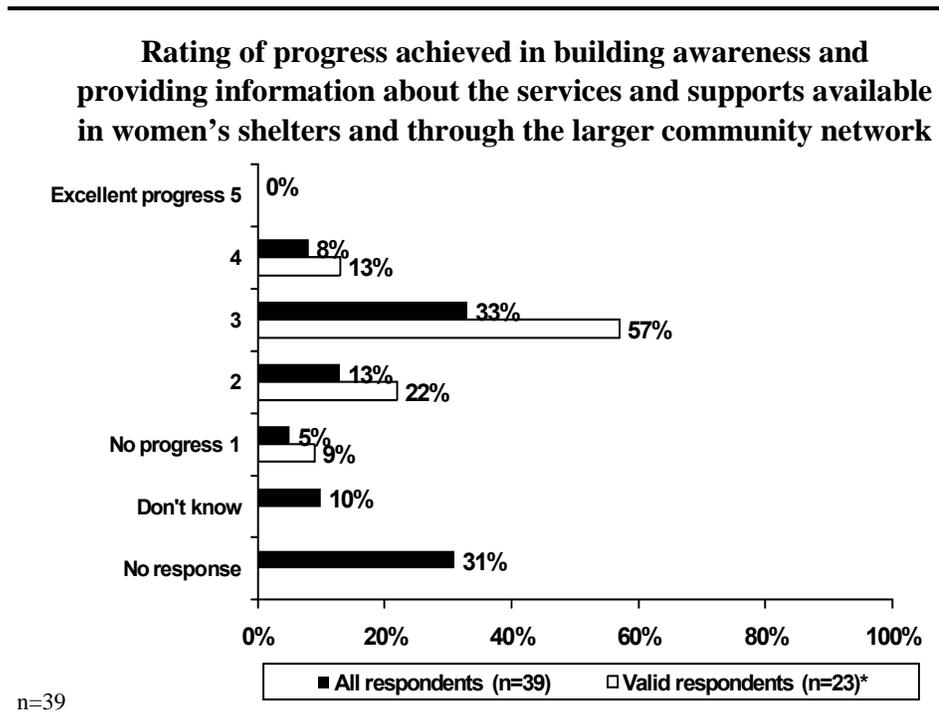
***Multiple mentions**

Prevention/Education/Intervention⁶⁰

As depicted in Figure 34, respondents were asked to rate the progress made regarding the recommendation to build awareness and provide information about the services and supports available in women’s shelters and through the larger community network to prevent and respond to family violence.

Only 8% of respondents indicated excellent progress had been made while one-third (33%) felt moderate progress had been achieved. Eighteen-percent (18%) of respondents felt little progress had been made in this regard, while 41% of respondents did not provide a rating.

When considering only valid respondents or those that provided a response (n=23), thirteen percent (13%) of respondents indicated that excellent progress has been made in building awareness about the services and supports available in women’s shelters and through the larger community. **Figure 34**



⁶⁰ Recommendation: Build awareness and provide information about the services and supports available in women’s shelters and through the larger community network to prevent and respond to family violence.

* Excludes “Don’t know” and “No response”⁶¹

Respondents were asked to indicate why they had provided their rating of the progress made in building awareness and providing information about the services and supports available. See Table 26, below, for reasons provided by respondents that provided a low progress rating (n=7).

Table 26

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a low progress rating (1 or 2 out of 5) of building awareness and providing information about the services and supports available	Number of Respondents (n=7)
There is a provincial telephone line available	2
Prevention and awareness is more focused on government services	1
Would be beneficial to be aware enough to know to call shelters	1
Not a lot of information/accurate information available	1
Telephone line is not effective in connecting clients to shelters	1
Don’t know/No response	3

***Multiple mentions**

Respondents that provided a moderate to high progress rating in this regard (n=16), most frequently indicated that the work had been done by the ACWS and individual shelters (2 respondents) or that the shelters advertise through the media (2 respondents). See Table 27, below.

Table 27

Why do you feel this way?*	
Base: Respondents that provided a moderate or high progress rating (3, 4 or 5 out of 5) of building awareness and providing information about the services and supports available	Number of Respondents (n=16)
This work has been done by ACWS and individual shelters	2
Advertise through media (radio, posters, ads)	2
Needs to be a greater recognition of pioneer work done by shelters	1
Continue to build educational components into schools/communities	1
Shelters seem to be the last resource method	1
No increase from PFVBD	1
On-reserve shelters have access to information and networking	1
PFVBD took responsibility for awareness/created help lines	1

⁶¹ Caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the low number of respondents.

Cumbersome to approach each organization separately	1
Don't know/No response	7

*Multiple mentions

Priorities for New or Enhanced Services

Finally, respondents were asked to rate the progress that has been achieved in addressing new and enhanced client services. The priorities with the highest mean ratings of progress achieved included enhanced and enriched childcare support and child-specific programming with a mean of 2.91 out of 5, followed by enhanced parenting, life skills and specialized child support programs (mean=2.46). The priority area with the lowest mean progress rating was in regards to increased support for transportation (mean=1.86). See Table 28, below.

Table 28

Progress Made in Priority Areas in New and Enhanced Client Services							
	Percent of Respondents (n=39)						Mean
	No Progress (1)	2	3	4	Excellent Progress (5)	Don't know/ No Response	
Enhanced and enriched childcare support and child-specific programming	5	15	18	21	--	41	2.91
Enhanced parenting, life skills and specialized child support programs as well as recreational programming	23	10	8	18	3	39	2.46
Safe visitation and exchange supports	21	18	8	10	5	39	2.38
Access to affordable and effective legal support services	21	13	15	5	3	44	2.23

Improved access to safe, affordable housing	18	26	15	3	--	39	2.04
Increased capacity (training, staffing) to provide one-on-one support to women and children with multiple and complex needs, including mental health and addictions issues	26	15	10	3	3	44	1.95
Increased support for transportation	23	15	15	--	--	46	1.86

ACWS Shelter Directors In-Depth Interviews



STUDY BACKGROUND

In July 2009, Banister Research & Consulting Inc. (Banister Research) was contracted by the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) to conduct in-depth interviews with the directors of the various women's shelters in the province of Alberta. These shelter directors represented a mix of shelters located in both urban and rural areas as well as emergency versus second stage housing versus senior's classifications. The intent of the in-depth interviews was to gather feedback from shelter directors to their level of participation and involvement the consultations held in the development of the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report (2004) and the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006). The interviews also assessed director's perceptions and opinions of the progress that has been achieved regarding the recommendations outlined in the above-mentioned reports.

Specifically, the objectives of the in-depth interviews with shelter directors included:

- ◆ To determine the most important issues and challenges faced by shelter directors to their facility's operation;
- ◆ To determine if shelter directors participated in any of the consultations held regarding the development of the 2004 Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report and to assess what progress, if any, has been made with regards to the recommendations outlined in this report;
- ◆ To determine which, if any, of these recommendations require additional attention;
- ◆ To determine if shelter directors participated in any of the consultations held regarding the development of the 2006 Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report and to assess what progress, if any, has been made with regards to the recommendations outlined in this report;
- ◆ To determine which, if any, of the 2006 Program Review recommendations require additional attention; and
- ◆ To determine if shelter directors were receiving adequate financial support from the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Division (PFVBD).

METHODOLOGY

All components of the project were designed and executed in close consultation with the ACWS (the Client). A detailed description of each task of the project is outlined in the remainder of this section.

Project Initiations and Questionnaire Design

At the outset of the project, a list of the potential shelter directors in Alberta was compiled and reviewed. The survey instrument used to conduct the in-depth interviews was modeled primarily after the 2009 ACWS Progress Report Web Survey with additional questions to gather more specific and in-depth information. A copy of the final questionnaire is provided in Appendix B.

Survey Populations and Data Collection

The in-depth interviews were completed from July 29th to August 6th, 2009. Respondents were pre-booked to complete the survey, by telephone, with an Associate of Banister Research and required between 30 minutes to 1 hour to complete each interview. A total of nine (9) shelter directors were interviewed representing three (3) shelter types (emergency, second stage and seniors) serving the needs of urban or rural residents⁶².

Readers of this report should be **cautioned** as to the interpretation of results obtained from the in-depth interviewing process. These results are qualitative in nature and they while provide valuable insights, they cannot be considered statistically representative.

⁶² Two shelters catered to the needs of both urban and rural residents equally.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The following section provides a summary of the key findings for the ACWS Shelter Directors Survey.

General Shelter Information

7.1.1 Important Issues and Concerns

To begin the interview, respondents were asked to indicate the most important issues and/or challenges they have experienced in terms of the maintenance and operation of their organization's facility and programs. Many respondents stated that they were concerned about the lack of funding their organization receives to support operating costs in particular.

While expressing concerns about the need for additional funding in general, specific issues highlighted by respondents included:

- Shelters often have to fundraise on their own to support the services they provide;
- Current funding for operations is inadequate let alone finding funds to support the ongoing maintenance of the facility;
- There is very little support for women leaving the shelter and in need of affordable housing;
- There are concerns about possible government cutbacks;
- Increased funding is needed to support many second stage programs, in addition to housing;
- More funding is required to retain, hire and train staff; and
- Additional funding is required to support various out-reach programs in the community.

Respondents cited specific issues relating to the maintenance of their present facility. Some of the specific issues were related to general maintenance of the facility (i.e. the building is run down, poor heating and air conditioning, has mold issues, etc.), the need for expanded office space in the shelter, the need for more basic appliances and

amenities (i.e. stoves), the need for more capacity or more beds and the need for the an entirely new facility in one case.

Many respondents identified staffing issues as being a major concern of their organization, particularly those located in the rural areas. The lack of qualified staff, an inability to pay competitive wages to stay competitive (including the provision of health benefits and mileage), and the need to hire specialized staff including management, housekeepers and maintenance workers were specifically mentioned.

Other important issues and concerns mentioned by respondents included:

- The lack of affordable housing available for single women;
- The stigma attached to women's shelter services within the community;
- The lack of specific resources within their community (i.e. law firms, etc.);
- A shortage of treatment centres for those with complex needs (i.e. those suffering addictions or mental health related issues);
- Conflicts that exist between board members and shelter staff preferring different methods implemented to achieve the shelter's goals; and
- Recognition that seniors are also in need of shelter services.

7.1.2 Resolving Important Issues and Concerns

Next, shelter directors were asked to specify solutions to resolve these important issues and concerns. The majority of respondents indicated that additional funding would do most to help resolve the issues and concerns. Other potential solutions mentioned by respondents included:

- Developing a province-wide second stage program;
- Building more treatment centres for those with complex needs (i.e. addictions);
- Developing a plan to help women that require assistance that is outside the mandate of the shelter;
- Lobby the government for increased support;
- Altering the way funding contracts are negotiated to reflect the total costs associated with operating the shelters;
- Changing the eligibility criteria of women applying for low income housing to include single women;
- Strengthening the relationships that exist between shelter board and staff members; and
- Support the needs of seniors that require shelter services.

Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report

7.2.1 Participation in the Premier's Roundtable

Respondents were asked to respond to a series of questions regarding the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report (2004).

When asked if they had participated in any of the consultations held in the development of the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report (2004), the vast majority of respondents indicated they had. While one shelter director that had not taken part in the consultation, they were aware of the recommendations. Another respondent indicated they were not aware of any of the recommendations published in the report, as they had not been working with women's shelters at that time.

7.2.2 Progress of the Premier's Roundtable

Next, respondents aware of the recommendations made in the report were asked to rate the progress achieved in this regard, using a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means "no progress" and 5 means "excellent progress". Many shelter directors provided progress a rating of 3 out of 5, while others provided a rating of 2 out of 5. One (1) respondent was unable to provide a response.

Respondents that were aware of the roundtable recommendations were asked to specify why they provided their rating of progress. The majority of respondents felt that while progress had been made in some areas, it was lacking in other areas. Areas where progress had been achieved included:

- Children's issues, such as bullying;
- Social changes and collaborative community response areas;
- Funding of basic shelter necessities, such as grocery expenses;
- The implementation of the Community Incentive Fund (CIF);
- Improved regional coordination of shelters;

- Training sessions for prosecutors and judges;
- Women's shelter programs becoming more victim focused; and
- Allocation of staff to family violence.

Areas where progress was lacking included issues related to the province increasing awareness and providing leadership, the lack of second stage shelters or programs and the continued lack of services, support and funding for shelters. Other reasons progress had not been achieved included:

- The overall accountability of those responsible for implementing the recommendations provided in the report;
- While progress has been made in regarding to children's issues, progress regarding women's issues remain unchanged;
- The need to develop a separate commission for violence against women through an entity separate from PFVBD;
- Changes to the legal system in order to ensure that offenders are punished;
- Improvements in government legislation (i.e. Child Family Act, Protection Against Family Violence Act);
- Bureaucratic changes and organizational restructuring have not translated into progress;
- Police need to be held accountable when improper investigations of domestic violence cases (specifically in the rural areas);
- Too many meetings but not enough action;
- The lack of progress for transitional supports (i.e. affordable housing); and
- The Emergency Protection Order not being a viable option for women, as they are not safe to stay in their own residence.

7.2.3 Areas that Require Increased Attention and Effort

When asked if there were any recommendations or areas that required more attention to increase progress, respondents most frequently mentioned:

- Programs and supports for second stage housing;
- The services and supports section of the report;
- The section of the report regarding accountability;
- Increasing provincial leadership;

- Developing a specific program or organization to address violence against women (similar to an AADAC like structure);
- Changes to the legal system in order to ensure that offenders are punished;
- Update to reflect the current need as opposed to what was needed in 2004;
- Recognize that domestic violence is not a gender neutral issue (predominately male perpetuated);
- Ensure that other governmental agencies are educated about issues pertaining to violence against women;
- Meet the needs of shelter users over the age of 50; and
- Recognize that there are some men have suffered abuse and require programs and services for complex needs.

Next, shelter directors were asked what could be done to ensure that the recommendations of the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report (2004) are met. Respondents frequently mentioned re-visiting the roundtable or creating a follow-up report to Albertans, while others stated the government should be held accountable by ACWS to make the recommendations a priority. Other shelter directors questioned the relevancy of the issues raised in 2004 and suggested refocusing on the issues at present. Other suggestions included reviewing policy in general to ensure that social programs receive the appropriate funding, developing an inter-governmental committee to work with non-for-profits to implement the roundtable recommendations to determine priorities moving forward.

Respondents were asked if they had any additional comments regarding the roundtable. Some respondents mentioned they were pleased with the current contract negotiations that are occurring. Other comments included:

- Pleased that wages for shelter staff have increased;
- The roundtable needs to be revisited and re-evaluated;
- The fleeing violence fund outlined in the roundtable is very effective;
- Inactivity of the government is to blame for the lack of progress, not the PFVBD;
- Perceptions that Child Welfare often pressures women to enter shelters with the threat of taking their children away and more training is needed for Child Welfare staff regarding violence against women;

- Pleased that women's shelters are part of a pilot project to house women previously discharged from the shelter; and
- A general need for the roundtable recommendations to be implemented.

Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review

7.3.1 Participation in the Women's Emergency Shelter Review

Respondents were asked to respond to a series questions regarding the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006).

When asked if they had participated in any of the consultations held in the development of the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006), the vast majority of respondents indicated that they had not participated in the project.

None of the respondents that had not taken part were able to recall any of the recommendations of the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006). When these respondents were asked to indicate why they were not aware of the recommendations, the vast majority stated that they were unable to remember the document. Other responses included that they had just started working with women's shelters at the time the report was released, while one respondent stated that they did not think the report would apply to second stage shelters.

7.3.2 Progress of the Women's Emergency Shelter Review

The two respondents that had taken part in the consultation leading up to the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006) were asked to rate the progress achieved since the consultation, using a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means "no progress" and 5 means "excellent progress". One respondent provided a rating of 3 out of 5, while the other provided a rating of 2 out of 5.

When was asked to specify why they felt this way, respondents indicated overall, the recommendations were too broad. They noted that while some changes have been made, including increased staff wages and the opening of additional beds, progress was lacking in the areas of transportation, increasing affordable and secondary housing. Other areas of improvement noted included helping those with mental health and addictions issues, improving reporting, addressing contract issues and ensuring that shelter turn-aways are looked after. Other areas of need included increasing access to lawyers for rural shelters and increasing the number of management positions at the shelter.

7.3.3 Areas that Require Increased Attention or Effort

When those that had taken part in the consultation leading up to the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006) were asked if there were any recommendations or supports that required more attention or effort, respondents mentioned transportation to and from the shelter, affordable housing issues and addressing the needs of people suffering from addictions. Other recommendations and supports that required additional attention included:

- Programs to prevent violence against women at the grass roots level;
- Addressing complex needs (i.e. cultural issues);
- Providing legal aid in rural areas; and
- Providing safe visitation.

Respondents were asked what could be done to ensure that the recommendations of the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006) are met. One respondent mentioned that a follow-up report should be completed to ensure that the province is being held accountable to the original objectives of the report. The other respondent mentioned that resources were needed to ensure the government does not cut funding because of the poor economic climate.

All respondents were then asked if they had any additional comments regarding the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report (2006). Specific comments included:

- The report needs to be revisited;
- Recommendations made in the program review are very useful;
- With the number of reports and other publications to review, it is hard to keep up to date;
- Not all shelters were consulted and there is poor communication with shelters;
and
- In general, when any review is completed, the results are beneficial.

Support from the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Division (PFVBD)

Respondents were asked if they were receiving adequate financial support from the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Division (PFVBD). The majority of respondents indicated that they were not receiving adequate financial support from PFVBD while select respondents reported that they were.

Respondents that indicated they were receiving enough financial support from PFVBD stated that they had recently received increases in funding though more funding is required to cover staffing (providing benefits, additional positions), cost of living increases and the special needs of rural shelters (travel and training costs).

Amongst those that indicated they do not receive enough financial support from PFVBD many stated their shelter is not fully funded and they need to fundraise to operate and to cover transportation costs specifically. Other reasons cited for these shortfalls included:

- Funds are needed to pay for annual audits;
- The current formula used to determine funding is inefficient;
- Rising insurance costs take up a large proportion of the budget;
- Increases are required to train, recruit and retain staff; and
- Do not receive any funding from PFVBD (only receive funding from the Alberta Seniors government branch).

Additional Comments

Finally, respondents were given the opportunity to provide additional comments regarding the operation of their shelter. Many commented that while some progress has been made on the various recommendations more needs to be done, specifically in relation to increased funding and support for staff (wage increases, specific types of employees). Other comments included:

- Receive great support from the surrounding community to keep the shelter operating;

- There is a need to review the 21-day policy in emergency shelters (stay should be extended to a minimum of 6 weeks to a maximum of 90 days);
- The shelter is very busy and currently doing well in terms of client service delivery;
- More resources are needed to support immigrant women with unique needs (i.e. ESL training).



APPENDIX A
PROGRESS REPORT SURVEY INSTRUMENT



Progress Report on Government Recommendations Relating to Shelters

In 2004, the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying, Finding Solutions Together made several recommendations concerning shelter services. In 2006, Alberta Children and Youth Services made further recommendations in the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report.

ACWS is now preparing a progress report on both sets of recommendations. Our information will come from a survey of shelter directors, board members and staff as well as community stakeholders. Your participation in this survey is very important and greatly appreciated. Please take the time to respond to the following questions.

*All responses will be collected and analyzed by Banister Research (an independent firm) to ensure the confidentiality of your feedback and the objectivity of the analysis. All information you provide is protected under the provincial **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**. All answers are strictly confidential and will remain anonymous.*

A. What is your current position/job description within your organization?

- I am a shelter director*

- I am a shelter staff person*

- I am a shelter board member*

- Other*

Part 1: Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying

The Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying report can be found on the ACWS website:

http://www.acws.ca/documents/rpt_opfvb_finding_solutions_high.pdf

Recommendation: Establish a single, cross-sector entity for province-wide leadership

One of the top priorities was the need for a single, cross-sector agency to increase the profile, coordinate and provide province-wide leadership in addressing issues related to family violence and bullying. As a first step, a Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Advisory Committee will be established. Members of the Committee will reflect a diverse range of geographic, community and service perspectives, as well as representatives from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, the Ethno-cultural Working Group and the Youth Secretariat. The Committee will develop options for the structure and responsibilities of a single entity and provide advice to the provincial government on implementation of this report. The Executive Director for the Prevention of Family Violence will provide support to the single entity and ensure coordination with government and community partners. (Page 15)

1. How would you rate the progress that has been made on the above recommendation?

No

Excellent

Don't

Progress

Progress

Know

1

2

3

4

5

Appendix 1 81



2. Why do you feel this way?

Recommendation: Provide additional support to families escaping family violence.

Transition funding is an important way of supporting families escaping violent situations until they are able to get established in a new situation. Steps have been taken to streamline the process and respond quickly to the needs of families escaping family violence. (Page 20)

3. From your perspective, were additional supports provided to families escaping family violence since the Roundtable report?

- Yes No (skip to Q. 6) Don't know (skip to Q. 6)

4. **If yes**, please rate the effectiveness of these additional supports to families:

Not at all				Very	Don't
Effective				Effective	Know
1	2	3	4	5	

5. Why do you feel this way?

6. Has the process been streamlined and/or improved for families escaping violence?

Yes No (skip to Q. 9) Don't know (skip to Q. 9)

7. **If yes**, please rate the effectiveness of the streamlined process:

Not at all					Very	Don't
Effective					Effective	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

8. Why do you feel this way?

A. Recommendation: Expand access to safe accommodations: *Work is underway to review current policy on funding for prevention of family violence initiatives including shelter programs and to establish criteria for funding new emergency safe housing options on a priority basis. The new policy will establish guiding principles and clear criteria for funding allocations and will take into account best practices and needs across the province. (Page 20)*

9. How would you rate the progress made on a new policy on funding allocations that takes into account best practices and needs across the province.

No					Excellent	Don't
Progress					Progress	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

10. Why do you feel this way?

B. Recommendation: Expand access to safe accommodations: *In addition to the need for safe accommodation in emergency situations, transitional (or second stage) housing is often a need for individuals and families ready to leave emergency housing. Through the local community planning process, municipalities are encouraged to identify the need for transitional housing and to initiate transitional housing projects based on their needs. (Page 20)*

11. How would you rate the progress that has been made in your local community to expand access to safe second stage accommodations?

No					Excellent	Don't
Progress					Progress	Know

1

2

3

4

5

12. Why do you feel this way?

Recommendation: Expand support available to victims of family violence and abuse: *The Victims of Crime Fund is designed to assist organizations that help victims of crime during their involvement with the criminal justice system. Many of these organizations deal with victims of family violence. In the next two years, an additional \$1.6 million will be allocated from the Victims of Crime Fund to support victims, including victims of family violence. (Page 20)*

13. Has your agency applied to the Victims of Crime Fund for funding?

Yes No (skip to Q. 16) Don't know (skip to Q.16)

14. Was your agency successful in obtaining funding from the Victims of Crime Fund?

Yes No (skip to Q. 16) Don't know (skip to Q. 16)

15. The Victims of Crime Fund also provides financial benefits for any physical or emotional injury as a direct result of being a victim of violent crime. How would you rate the effectiveness of this fund for individual women using your agency's services?

Not at all					Very	Don't
Effective					Effective	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

Thank you for your time and effort in completing this survey. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Part 2: Women’s Emergency Shelter Review Program:

Final Report

The Women’s Emergency Shelter Review Program report can be found on the ACWS website:

<http://www.acws.ca/documents/WomensEmergencyShelterProgramReview2006.pdf>

Affordable, Safe, Suitable Housing:

Recommendation: *Conduct a cross jurisdictional analysis to assess the costs and effectiveness of 2nd stage and other transitional housing programs; including an evaluation of the 2nd stage housing pilot projects in Edmonton and Calgary and develop recommendations for next steps. (Page 5)*

16. Have you been part of an evaluation of second stage housing by the Province?

Yes No (skip to Q. 18) Don’t know (skip to Q. 18)

17. **If yes** – how have you been involved?

18. Have you been involved in the development of recommendations for the next steps?

Yes

No

Don't know

19. **If yes**-how have you been involved?

Recommendation: Support and encourage municipalities, housing authorities, other community partners and shelters to work together to identify and develop affordable and transitional housing options at the local level. (Page 5)

20. Have you been supported by the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Division (PFVBD) **to identify** affordable and transitional housing options in your community?

Yes

No (skip to Q. 22) Don't know (skip to Q. 22)

21. **If yes** –What type of support did you receive?

Recommendation: *Work with government and community partners to develop affordable and transitional housing strategies to meet the needs of abused women and children. (Page 5)*

22. Have you been supported by PFVBD **to develop** affordable and transitional housing options?

Yes No (skip to Q. 26) Don't know (skip to Q. 26)

23. **If yes** – what has been done in your community?

24. If yes – how adequate is this support?

Not at all					Very	Don't
Adequate					Adequate	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

25. Why do you feel this way?

Recommendation: Support shelters to work collaboratively with community partners to support abused women to safely stay in their homes, when they choose to do so. (Page 5)

26. Has your shelter received support from PFVBD to work collaboratively to support abused women to safely stay in their homes?

- Yes No (skip to Q. 30) Don't know (skip to Q. 30)

27. If yes – specify what type of support was received.

28. How adequate is this support?

Not at all					Very	Don't
Adequate					Adequate	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

29. Why do you feel this way?

30. Do you have any additional comments about support offered from PFVBD?

Transportation

Recommendation: *Assess transportation options to meet specific shelter service needs in urban, rural and remote communities. (Page 5)*

31. Has your shelter been involved with the PFVBD to assess transportation options?

Yes No (skip to Q. 35) Don't know (skip to Q. 35)

32. **If yes** – how has your shelter been involved?

33. **If yes** – how adequate is support from PFVBD regarding transportation issues?

Not at all					Very	Don't
Adequate					Adequate	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

34. Why do you feel this way?

35. Do you have any comments about PFVBD assessing transportation options?

Recommendation: *Allocate dedicated resources to meet the transportation needs of clients attempting to access shelter. (Page 5)*

36. Has your shelter received dedicated resources to meet the transportation needs of clients to access the shelter?

Yes

No (skip to Q. 40) Don't know (skip to Q. 40)

37. If **yes**-please describe what resources have been received to meet the transportation needs of clients.

38. Please rate if those resources are adequate to meet the needs of women wanting to access your shelter.

Not at all					Very	Don't
Adequate					Adequate	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

39. Why do you feel this way

Shelter Operations

Recommendation: Simplify and clarify data collection and reporting processes, including turnaways and exit surveys to streamline workload. (Page 5)

40. Since the release of the Women's Shelter Report, steps have been taken to simplify data collection and reporting. How much progress have you experienced in this area?

No					Excellent	Don't
Progress					Progress	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

41. Why do you feel this way?

Recommendation: Explore collaborative options to better meet the needs of women in need and women in crisis who are not abused and outside of Children's Services women's shelter program mandate for abused women with and without children. (Page 6)

42. Is your shelter collaborating with PFVBD to explore collaborative options to better meet the needs of women in need and women in crisis who are not abused and outside of Children and Youth Services women's shelter program mandate?

- Yes, we have been involved in seeking collaborative options (skip to Q. 44)
- No, we have not been involved
- Don't Know (skip to Q. 44)

43. **If no**-why have you not been involved?

Recommendation: *Ensure flexibility and discretion for shelter directors to grant extensions on length of stay when women need more time to stabilize and transition back into the community. (Page 6)*

44. Do you feel you have discretion and flexibility to grant extensions on length of stay for women in shelters?

Yes (skip to Q. 46)

No

Don't know (skip to Q. 46)

45. **If no**-why do you feel you don't have discretion and flexibility to grant extensions on length of stay?

Recommendation: *Explore opportunities for additional support to address challenges associated with a communal living environment. (Page 6)*

46. Has PFVBD raised the potential of additional support to address the challenges of communal living with you?

Yes (skip to Q. 48)

No

Don't know

47. Have you raised this potential with them?

Yes

No

Don't know

48. Have you received any additional supports from the PFVBD to address the challenges of communal living with you?

I have received additional supports

I have not received any additional support (Skip to Q. 52)

49. **[If received additional supports]** What additional supports have you received?

50. Please rate the adequacy of these additional supports.

Not at all

Very

Don't

Adequate

Adequate

Know

1

2

3

4

5

51. Why do you feel this way?

Recommendation: Assess operating pressures identified by shelters and allocate available resources to address priority areas. (Page 6)

52. How accurate has PFVBD been in their assessment of operating pressures in your shelter?

Not at all					Very	Don't
Accurate					Accurate	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

53. Why do you feel this way?

Recommendation: Support shelters in meeting the training needs of staff, and ensure equitable access to training opportunities for shelters in rural and remote communities. (Page 6)

54. How effective are the training supports from the province in meeting the needs of staff for your shelter?

Not at all					Very	Don't
Effective					Effective	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

55. Why do you feel this way?



Transitional Supports

Recommendation: Evaluate shelter and community outreach program data and assess key opportunities and challenges to building additional outreach capacity to work with women, children and other family members impacted by family violence who are not in emergency shelter. (Page 6)

56. Has your shelter worked with PFVBD to identify opportunities and challenges in order to enhance effective outreach service delivery?

Yes (skip to Q. 58)

No

Don't know (skip to Q. 58)

57. If no-why not?

Recommendation: Work with shelters to identify ways to collaborate with community partners to increase the capacity to provide specialized transitional supports needed by women and children leaving shelter, such as safe affordable housing, financial assistance, legal services, counselling and treatment. (Page 6)

58. Which of the following areas has your shelter worked with PFVBD on in order to identify ways to enhance specialized supports? **[Check all that apply]**

Affordable housing

Financial assistance

Legal services

Counselling

Treatment

Other (specify)

None of the above

59. Which of the following areas has your shelter received information and updates from PFVBD? **[Check all that apply]**

Affordable housing

Financial assistance

Legal services

Counselling

Treatment

Other (specify)

None of the above

Complex Needs

Recommendation: Support shelters to engage in collaborative cross sector training to better meet the multiple and complex needs of clients, such as mental health concerns, addictions issues, cultural barriers and post-traumatic stress. (Page 6)

60. How satisfied are you with the support you have received from government for cross sector training?

Very Dissatisfied								Very Satisfied	Don't Know
1		2		3		4		5	

61. Why do you feel this way?

Children/ Safe Visitation

Recommendation: Support shelters in supporting the diverse needs of children and youth in shelters. (Page 6)

62. How satisfied are you with the support you have received from PFVBD in meeting the diverse needs of children and youth in shelters?

Very					Very	Don't
Dissatisfied					Satisfied	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

63. Why do you feel this way?

Recommendation: Advance collaborative efforts to ensure safe visitation and/or exchange supports are available for children whose parents/guardians have been or continue to be in an abusive relationship. (Page 6)

64. Please rate your agreement with the following statement:

“Collaborative efforts to ensure safe visitation and exchange have been advanced”

Strongly					Strongly	Don't
Disagree					Agree	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

65. Why do you feel this way?

Prevention/Education/Intervention

Recommendation: *Build awareness and provide information about the services and supports available in women's shelters and through the larger community network to prevent and respond to family violence. (Page 6)*

66. Please rate how you assess progress made on the above recommendation:

No					Excellent	Don't
Progress					Progress	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

67. Why do you feel this way?

Priorities for New or Enhanced Services

Priorities for new or enhanced services; *Top priorities for new and enhanced client services, both in shelters and at the community level, include the following;*

- Improved access to safe, affordable housing;*
- Access to affordable and effective legal support services;*
- Increased support for transportation;*
- Enhanced and enriched childcare support and child-specific programming;*

-Increased capacity (training, staffing) to provided one-on-one support to women and children with multiple and complex needs, including mental health and addiction issues;

-Safe visitation and exchange supports; and

-Enhanced parenting, life skills and specialized child support programs as well as recreational programming.

68. Overall, please rate how you would assess progress made in addressing the following priorities:

a) Improved access to safe, affordable housing:

No					Excellent	Don't
Progress					Progress	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

b) Access to affordable and effective legal support services:

No					Excellent	Don't
Progress					Progress	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

c) Increased support for transportation:

No					Excellent	Don't
Progress					Progress	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

d) Enhanced and enriched childcare support and child-specific programming:

No					Excellent	Don't
Progress					Progress	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

e) Increased capacity (training, staffing) to provide one-on-one support to women and children with multiple and complex needs, including mental health and addictions issues:

No					Excellent	Don't
Progress					Progress	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

f) Safe visitation and exchange supports:

No					Excellent	Don't
Progress					Progress	Know
1	2	3	4	5		

g) Enhanced parenting, life skills and specialized child support programs as well as recreational programming.

No					Excellent	Don't
Progress					Progress	Know

Thank you for your time and effort in completing this survey. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

APPENDIX B
IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW SURVEY INSTRUMENT

ACWS

In-Depth Interview Survey

Introduction:

Hello, may I speak with [insert contact name]. My name is _____ with Banister Research, a professional research firm. In 2004, the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying, Finding Solutions Together made several recommendations concerning shelter services and in 2006, Alberta Children and Youth Services made further recommendations in the Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report. The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters ACWS is now preparing a progress report on both sets of recommendations.

I would like to assure you that we are not selling or promoting anything and that all your responses will be kept completely anonymous.

Our discussion will take approximately 25 to 35 minutes. Is this a convenient time for us to talk, or should we call you back?

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Convenient time | Continue |
| 2. Not convenient time | Arrange callback |

**[Questions related to the study can be referred to at Jan Reimer with ACWS
(780) 456-7000]**

A. Which organization do you represent?

B. Where is your shelter located?

- C. What classification type does your shelter fit into (ex. urban/rural, emergency, second stage, etc.)

To begin the survey, I would like to ask you some general questions about your organization and the services that you provide.

- 1. What are the most important issues and/or challenges with regards to the maintenance and operation of your organizations' facility and programs?

- 2. What could be done to resolve these issues and/or challenges?

The next part of the survey is in regards to the 2004 Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report.



3. Did you participate in any of the consultations around the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying?

- 1. Yes- **Go to Q. 6**
- 2. No
- F5 Don't Know

4. Are you aware of the recommendations published in the 2004 Premier's Roundtable Report?

- 1. Yes- **Go to Q. 6**
- 2. No
- F5 Don't Know

5. **[If no/don't know]** Why are you not aware of the recommendations?

Skip to Q. 10

6. Using a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means "No progress" and 5 means "Excellent progress", how much progress overall has been made regarding the 2004 Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report.

- 1. No progress
- 2.

- 3.
- 4.
- 5. Excellent progress
- F5 Don't know



7. Why do you feel this way?

8. Are there any recommendations or supports that you feel require more attention or increased progress?

9. What could be done to ensure that the recommendations of the 2004 Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report are met?

10. Do you have any other comments in regards to the 2004 Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying Report?



The last part of the survey is in regards to the 2006 Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report.

11. Were you involved in any of the consultations leading up to the 2006 Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report?

- 1. Yes- **Go to Q. 14**
- 2. No
- F5 Don't Know

12. Are you aware of the recommendations published in the 2006 Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report?

- 1. Yes- **Go to Q. 14**
- 2. No
- F5 Don't Know

13. **[If no/don't know]** Why are you not aware of the recommendations?

Go to Q. 18

14. Thinking about the 2006 Women’s Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report, how much progress has been made overall (Read if necessary “Using a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means “No progress” and 5 means “Excellent progress”)?

- 1. No progress
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5. Excellent progress
- F5 Don't know

15. Why do you feel this way?

16. Are there any recommendations or supports that you feel require more attention or increased progress?

17. What could be done to ensure that the recommendations of the 2006 Women’s Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report are met?



18. Do you have any other comments in regards to the 2006 Women's Emergency Shelter Program Review: Final Report?

19. Are you receiving adequate financial support from the Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Division (PFVBD)?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- F5 Don't Know

20. Why do you feel this way?

General Comments

21. Do you have any comments that you would like to make with regards to the operation of your facility?

That's all of the questions I have. Thank you very much for your help.



Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action⁶³

D. Violence against women⁶⁴

112. Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in the case of violence against women is a matter of concern to all States and should be addressed. Knowledge about its causes and consequences, as well as its incidence and measures to combat it, have been greatly expanded since the Nairobi Conference. In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture. The low social and economic status of women can be both a cause and a consequence of violence against women.

113. The term "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. Accordingly, violence against women encompasses but is not limited to the following:

- (a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;
- (b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;
- (c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

114. Other acts of violence against women include violation of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict, in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy.

115. Acts of violence against women also include forced sterilization and forced abortion, coercive/forced use of contraceptives, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection.

116. Some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, women migrants, including women migrant workers, women in poverty living

⁶³ Page 45 Beijing Declaration And Platform For Action Fourth World Conference On Women

⁶⁴ For the entire Declaration go to http://www.unesco.org/education/information/nfsunesco/pdf/BEIJIN_E.PDF

in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, female children, women with disabilities, elderly women, displaced women, repatriated women, women living in poverty and women in situations of armed conflict, foreign occupation, wars of aggression, civil wars, terrorism, including hostage-taking, are also particularly vulnerable to violence.

117. Acts or threats of violence, whether occurring within the home or in the community, or perpetrated or condoned by the State, instil fear and insecurity in women's lives and are obstacles to the achievement of equality and for development and peace. The fear of violence, including harassment, is a permanent constraint on the mobility of women and limits their access to resources and basic activities. High social, health and economic costs to the individual and society are associated with violence against women. Violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men. In many cases, violence against women and girls occurs in the family or within the home, where violence is often tolerated. The neglect, physical and sexual abuse, and rape of girl children and women by family members and other members of the household, as well as incidences of spousal and non-spousal abuse, often go unreported and are thus difficult to detect. Even when such violence is reported, there is often a failure to protect victims or punish perpetrators.

118. Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women's full advancement. Violence against women throughout the life cycle derives essentially from cultural patterns, in particular the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices and all acts of extremism linked to race, sex, language or religion that perpetuate the lower status accorded to women in the family, the workplace, the community and society. Violence against women is exacerbated by social pressures, notably the shame of denouncing certain acts that have been perpetrated against women; women's lack of access to legal information, aid or protection; the lack of laws that effectively prohibit violence against women; failure to reform existing laws; inadequate efforts on the part of public authorities to promote awareness of and enforce existing laws; and the absence of educational and other means to address the causes and consequences of violence. Images in the media of violence against women, in particular those that depict rape or sexual slavery as well as the use of women and girls as sex objects, including pornography, are factors contributing to the continued prevalence of such violence, adversely influencing the community at large, in particular children and young people.

119. Developing a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the challenging task of promoting families, communities and States that are free of violence against women is necessary and achievable. Equality, partnership between women and men and respect for human dignity must permeate all stages of the socialization process. Educational systems should promote self-respect, mutual respect, and cooperation between women and men.

120. The absence of adequate gender-disaggregated data and statistics on the incidence of violence makes the elaboration of programmes and monitoring of changes difficult. Lack of or inadequate documentation and research on domestic violence, sexual harassment and violence against women and girls in private and in public, including the workplace, impede efforts to design specific intervention strategies. Experience in a number of countries shows that women and men can be mobilized to overcome violence in all its forms and that effective public measures can be taken to address both the causes and the consequences of violence. Men's groups mobilizing against gender violence are necessary allies for change.

121. Women may be vulnerable to violence perpetrated by persons in positions of authority in both conflict and non-conflict situations. Training of all officials in humanitarian and human rights law and the punishment of perpetrators of violent acts against women would help to ensure that such violence does not take place at the hands of public officials in whom women should be able to place trust, including police and prison officials and security forces.

122. The effective suppression of trafficking in women and girls for the sex trade is a matter of pressing international concern. Implementation of the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 20/ as well as other relevant instruments, needs to be reviewed and strengthened. The use of women in international prostitution and trafficking networks has become a major focus of international organized crime. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, who has explored these acts as an additional cause of the violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, is invited to address, within her mandate and as a matter of urgency, the issue of international trafficking for the purposes of the sex trade, as well as the issues of forced prostitution, rape, sexual abuse and sex tourism. Women and girls who are victims of this international trade are at an increased risk of further violence, as well as unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection, including infection with HIV/AIDS.

123. In addressing violence against women, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes so that before decisions are taken an analysis may be made of their effects on women and men, respectively.

Strategic objective D.1. Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women

Actions to be taken

124. By Governments:

- (a) Condemn violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;
- (b) Refrain from engaging in violence against women and exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State or by private persons;
- (c) Enact and/or reinforce penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs done to women and girls who are subjected to any form of violence, whether in the home, the workplace, the community or society;
- (d) Adopt and/or implement and periodically review and analyse legislation to ensure its effectiveness in eliminating violence against women, emphasizing the prevention of violence and the prosecution of offenders; take measures to ensure the protection of women subjected to violence, access to just and effective remedies, including compensation and indemnification and healing of victims, and rehabilitation of perpetrators;
- (e) Work actively to ratify and/or implement international human rights norms and instruments as they relate to violence against women, including those contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 21/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 13/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 13/ and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; 22/ (f) Implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, taking into account general recommendation 19, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its eleventh session; 23/
- (f) Promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes related to violence against women; actively encourage, support and implement measures and programmes aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of the causes, consequences and mechanisms of violence against women among those responsible for implementing these policies, such as law enforcement officers, police personnel and judicial, medical and social workers, as well as those who deal with minority, migration and refugee issues, and develop strategies to ensure that the revictimization of women victims of violence does not occur because of gender-insensitive laws or judicial or enforcement practices;

- (g) Provide women who are subjected to violence with access to the mechanisms of justice and, as provided for by national legislation, to just and effective remedies for the harm they have suffered and inform women of their rights in seeking redress through such mechanisms;
- (h) Enact and enforce legislation against the perpetrators of practices and acts of violence against women, such as female genital mutilation, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection and dowry-related violence, and give vigorous support to the efforts of non-governmental and community organizations to eliminate such practices;
- (i) Formulate and implement, at all appropriate levels, plans of action to eliminate violence against women;
- (j) Adopt all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, and to eliminate prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women;
- (k) Create or strengthen institutional mechanisms so that women and girls can report acts of violence against them in a safe and confidential environment, free from the fear of penalties or retaliation, and file charges;
- (l) Ensure that women with disabilities have access to information and services in the field of violence against women;
- (m) Create, improve or develop as appropriate, and fund the training programmes for judicial, legal, medical, social, educational and police and immigrant personnel, in order to avoid the abuse of power leading to violence against women and sensitize such personnel to the nature of gender-based acts and threats of violence so that fair treatment of female victims can be assured;
- (n) Adopt laws, where necessary, and reinforce existing laws that punish police, security forces or any other agents of the State who engage in acts of violence against women in the course of the performance of their duties; review existing legislation and take effective measures against the perpetrators of such violence;
- (o) Allocate adequate resources within the government budget and mobilize community resources for activities related to the elimination of violence against women, including resources for the implementation of plans of action at all appropriate levels;
- (p) Include in reports submitted in accordance with the provisions of relevant United Nations human rights instruments, information pertaining to violence against women and measures taken to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

- (q) Cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women in the performance of her mandate and furnish all information requested; cooperate also with other competent mechanisms, such as the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on torture and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on summary, extrajudiciary and arbitrary executions, in relation to violence against women;
- (r) Recommend that the Commission on Human Rights renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women when her term ends in 1997 and, if warranted, to update and strengthen it.

125. By Governments, including local governments, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, the public and private sectors, particularly enterprises, and the mass media, as appropriate:

- (a) Provide well-funded shelters and relief support for girls and women subjected to violence, as well as medical, psychological and other counselling services and free or low-cost legal aid, where it is needed, as well as appropriate assistance to enable them to find a means of subsistence;
- (b) Establish linguistically and culturally accessible services for migrant women and girls, including women migrant workers, who are victims of gender-based violence;
- (c) Recognize the vulnerability to violence and other forms of abuse of women migrants, including women migrant workers, whose legal status in the host country depends on employers who may exploit their situation;
- (d) Support initiatives of women's organizations and non-governmental organizations all over the world to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women and to contribute to its elimination;
- (e) Organize, support and fund community-based education and training campaigns to raise awareness about violence against women as a violation of women's enjoyment of their human rights and mobilize local communities to use appropriate gender-sensitive traditional and innovative methods of conflict resolution;
- (f) Recognize, support and promote the fundamental role of intermediate institutions, such as primary health-care centres, family-planning centres, existing school health services, mother and baby protection services, centres for migrant families and so forth in the field of information and education related to abuse;
- (g) Organize and fund information campaigns and educational and training programmes in order to sensitize girls and boys and women and men to the personal and social detrimental effects of violence in the family, community and society; teach them how to communicate without violence and promote training for victims and potential victims so that they can protect themselves and others against such violence;

- (h) Disseminate information on the assistance available to women and families who are victims of violence;
- (i) Provide, fund and encourage counselling and rehabilitation programmes for the perpetrators of violence and promote research to further efforts concerning such counselling and rehabilitation so as to prevent the recurrence of such violence;
- (j) Raise awareness of the responsibility of the media in promoting non-stereotyped images of women and men, as well as in eliminating patterns of media presentation that generate violence, and encourage those responsible for media content to establish professional guidelines and codes of conduct; also raise awareness of the important role of the media in informing and educating people about the causes and effects of violence against women and in stimulating public debate on the topic.

126. By Governments, employers, trade unions, community and youth organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate:

- (a) Develop programmes and procedures to eliminate sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women in all educational institutions, workplaces and elsewhere;
- (b) Develop programmes and procedures to educate and raise awareness of acts of violence against women that constitute a crime and a violation of the human rights of women;
- (c) Develop counselling, healing and support programmes for girls, adolescents and young women who have been or are involved in abusive relationships, particularly those who live in homes or institutions where abuse occurs;
- (d) Take special measures to eliminate violence against women, particularly those in vulnerable situations, such as young women, refugee, displaced and internally displaced women, women with disabilities and women migrant workers, including enforcing any existing legislation and developing, as appropriate, new legislation for women migrant workers in both sending and receiving countries.

127. By the Secretary-General of the United Nations: Provide the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women with all necessary assistance, in particular the staff and resources required to perform all mandated functions, especially in carrying out and following up on missions undertaken either separately or jointly with other special rapporteurs and working groups, and adequate assistance for periodic consultations with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and all treaty bodies.

128. By Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations: Encourage the dissemination and implementation of the UNHCR Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women and the UNHCR Guidelines on the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence against Refugees.

Strategic objective D.2. Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures

Actions to be taken

129. By Governments, regional organizations, the United Nations, other international organizations, research institutions, women's and youth organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate:

- (a) Promote research, collect data and compile statistics, especially concerning domestic violence relating to the prevalence of different forms of violence against women, and encourage research into the causes, nature, seriousness and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of measures implemented to prevent and redress violence against women;
- (b) Disseminate findings of research and studies widely;
- (c) Support and initiate research on the impact of violence, such as rape, on women and girl children, and make the resulting information and statistics available to the public;
- (d) Encourage the media to examine the impact of gender role stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements which foster gender-based violence and inequalities, and how they are transmitted during the life cycle, and take measures to eliminate these negative images with a view to promoting a violence-free society.

Strategic objective D.3. Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking

Actions to be taken

130. By Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination, regional and international organizations, as appropriate:

- (a) Consider the ratification and enforcement of international conventions on trafficking in persons and on slavery;
- (b) Take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour in order to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better

- protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing the perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;
- (c) Step up cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking;
 - (d) Allocate resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and rehabilitate into society victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and confidential health care, and take measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims of trafficking;
 - (e) Develop educational and training programmes and policies and consider enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children.

ESCAPING VIOLENCE UPDATE

The total number of unique clients receiving escaping abuse benefits during the first period (January – August 2008) was 3390. During the second period (September, 2008 to April 2009) this number rose to 3723. This reflects a 9% increase in the number of clients requesting assistance from Alberta Employment and Immigration to flee abusive situations.

Expenditures per client assisted were looked at for the two periods, with expenditures increasing by \$52.00 per client since September 2008. The increase in expenditures appears to be occurring because a greater proportion of clients received the “personal benefit (transportation and telephone)” and “damage deposit benefit” since September 2008. Total expenditures for escaping abuse benefits increased from \$2.48 million during the first period to \$2.91 million during the second period.

In fact, benefits issued for damage deposits increased by 28% since September 2008. However, the number of benefits issued for relocation allowance decreased by 42%. This may signal that more women are choosing to leave their partners and then set up residences in their existing communities rather than relocate.

Since September 2008, the number of individuals receiving the escaping abuse benefit of \$1,000.00 increased 28%. This may be another indication that more women are choosing to leave their partners since the economic downturn.⁶⁵

Financial Period	Benefit Name	Number Unique Clients
January - August 2008	Personal Benefit – Family Violence Shelter	314
	Personal Benefit – Telephone and Transportation – Leaving Abusive Situation	1347
	Damage Deposit	769
	Emergency Transportation	1155
	Emergency Shelter – Abuse Situation	130
	Escaping Abuse benefit	1472
	Relocation Allowance	149
Total	Unique clients receiving one or more of the included need codes	*3390

⁶⁵

Usage considerations: The unique number of clients reported at the need-code level are precisely the number of unique clients receiving that need code. Clients often receive benefits associated with more than one need code at a time. Totalling these values would result in double, triple, counting those clients who receive two or more benefits. (*) A separate unique total represents the actual number of unique clients receiving one or more of the included need codes.

Sept 2008 - April 2009	Benefit Name	Number Unique Clients
	Personal Benefit – Family Violence Shelter	389
	Personal Benefit – Telephone and Transportation – Leaving Abusive Situation	1645
	Damage Deposit	1070
	Emergency Transportation	1095
	Emergency Shelter – Abuse Situation	133
	Escaping Abuse benefit	1680
	Relocation Allowance	105
Total	Unique clients receiving one or more of the included need codes	*3723