[Date]

[Address]
[Postal Code]

Dear [Honorific] [FirstName] [LastName],

I am writing to you as a constituent to express my support for the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters (ACWS), the provincial network organization of women’s shelters in Alberta. ACWS supports 40 members operating over 50 shelters across the province for women, their children, and seniors facing domestic abuse. With support from ACWS, Alberta shelters are helping to provide safety, support families, and improve communities.

Shelters are needed, now more than ever. Shelter staff are essential workers who are on the frontlines, serving people with a diverse array of social service challenges. Providing more than just a bed, shelters remain open 24/7 throughout the pandemic.

I am writing to encourage you to connect with your local shelter, in order to develop or maintain this important relationship within your community. Arrange an in-person visit or connect with your local shelter’s Executive Director or CEO via videoconference to learn more about their vital work. ACWS’ online directory of shelters can help you find shelters close to you: https://acws.ca/shelters/

Most shelters have experienced a drop in donations. I also encourage you to support provincial and federal initiatives that promote and augment shelter funding.

For more detailed information on the state of domestic violence shelters during the pandemic, you can download the full 2020 Shelter Snapshot report on the ACWS website: https://acws.ca/news/shelter-snapshot-2020/

You can also help by sharing the ACWS’ key messages on your social media networks. Encourage donations to support their work or share posts that describe the signs of domestic violence. (Find ACWS on Facebook and Instagram at @AlbertaCouncilofWomensShelters, and on Twitter at @womenshelter.)

Together, we can work to end domestic violence – in our homes and throughout our communities. Thank you for your commitment to ending violence against women.

Sincerely,

[Your name]