



# ACWS

Alberta Council of  
Women's Shelters

## ANNUAL REPORT

**2020 - 2021**

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# Traditional Land Acknowledgment

ACWS acknowledges the traditional lands upon which we live, work, and play. We recognize that all Albertans are Treaty people and have a responsibility to understand our history so that we can learn from the past, be aware of the present, and create a just and caring future. ACWS celebrates and values the resiliency, successes, and teachings that Indigenous people have shown us, as well as the unique contributions of every Albertan.

The ACWS office is located on Treaty 6 land, which is the traditional territory of the Plains Cree and an ancient gathering place of many Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. These lands have also been home to, and a central trading place of, the Blackfoot, Nakota, Assiniboine, Dene, and the Métis people of western Canada. We honour the courage and strength of Indigenous women.

We honour them as life givers and care givers as we honour and learn from their continuing achievements, their consistent strength, and their remarkable endurance.

Our members serve all nations and all peoples. They are located on Treaty 4, 6, 7, and 8 lands across this province which include the six Métis regions of Alberta.

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# ACWS Board Members 2020/2021

**Gaye Warthe**, President

**Jessica Chapman**, Vice President (2021)

**Pat Garrett**, Vice President (2020)

**Jeanette Sandstra**, Secretary

**Pamela Wicks**, Treasurer (2014-2020)

**Debbie Ma**, Treasurer (Partial term beginning in 2021)

**Jerri Taylor**, Director

**Sandy A. Vander Ziel**, Director

**Michele Taylor**, Director

**Wanda McGinnis**, Director

**Brittany Johnson**, Public Director

**Tracy Lee**, Public Director

**Janice Willier**, Public Director (Partial term beginning 2021)

**Carol (Barb) Okemow**, Director

**Brian Simpson**, Public Director (2014-2021)



# ACWS Staff Members 2020/2021

We would like to thank the support staff have given us as we dealt with the two pandemics: Covid 19 and violence against women in girls.

## Some new faces:

**Joe Campbell**, Leading Change Community Developer

**Ashley Reimer**, Data Analyst & Member Support

**Olivia Street**, Coordinator of Communications & Social Advocacy

## Some in new roles:

**Natalie Craig**, Database and Development Support

**Sheena Fitzpatrick**, Development & Partnerships Coordinator

**Jill Shillabeer**, Leading Change Call to Action Coordinator

**Alyssa Hartwell**, Leading Change Community Developer

## And our constants:

**Jennifer Ness**, Manager, Finance, HR & IT, marking 10 years with ACWS this year

**Husna Khaidir**, Administrative Support

**Ian Wheeliker**, Director of Member Programs

**Blessing Muyambo**, Lead, Enhancing Assessment Tools

**Christie Lavan**, Director of Public Relations and Community Engagement

**Jan Reimer**, Executive Director, marking 20 years with ACWS this year

Many contractors, consultants, and students helped make our work possible, and we thank them all for their contributions.



# Message from the Board President & Executive Director

As we are now in year two of the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020-2021 proved to be a continuation of many unprecedented challenges. Throughout an ongoing public health crisis, shelter staff across the province continued to show up for the women, children, and seniors they serve—proving their dedication and commitment to helping people escaping domestic violence. Amid the turmoil that the pandemic has caused, shelter staff weathered an ongoing storm with fortitude and grace.

The essential nature of shelter work positions shelter staff on the frontlines. As the 2021 Shelter Superstars campaign highlighted, the women's shelter workforce routinely goes above and beyond to make houses into homes for their clients. Wearing many hats, they are problem-solvers, allies, leaders, and untiring supporters who are doing the irreplaceable work of helping women start new lives, free from violence. We remain deeply humbled by their fearlessness and innovation, as they continuously find creative solutions to support clients.

This year, we were pleased to welcome to the board, Janice Willier, Suleka Mustapha, and Debbie Mah. The expertise, vision, and strategic leadership of our board continues to provide guidance in moving our work forward. We are deeply grateful for their service.

We welcomed a new member, the Canadian Pakistani Support Group, operating Maskan shelter in Calgary. ACWS also onboarded new staff who shared enthusiasm, commitment and talent in designing the “How We Work Together” portion of our organization's Statement of Philosophy.

Some of this year's major projects included completing our Workforce Survey, which gave us valuable insight not only into experiences of domestic violence shelters in



terms of operations and staffing, but into the experiences of women in the workplace within the broader labour market. We worked with the federal government and hosted consultation sessions on the National Action Plan to End Domestic Violence. We launched our first online version of the annual Breakfast with the Guys event and pivoted our Leading Change sessions online as a way to stay connected to communities across Alberta during Covid-19.

Our 2020 Shelter Snapshot data release revealed a six-month picture of ACWS member data and experiences—it confirmed how the message “Stay Home, Stay Safe” created additional barriers for survivors to reach out for help. This spurred important advocacy around the message that shelters are “more than a bed.” Indeed, outreach services are a critical piece of the support shelters provide.

We released the findings of Project Impact, a process that taught us more about the outcomes and changes clients experience while in domestic violence shelter programs across the province. This pilot project brought 21 ACWS members together with Dr. Steve Patty and his team at Dialogues in Action to form the evaluation frameworks, participate in workshops, collect data through interviews and surveys, and analyze their findings with training and support. It was a groundbreaking initiative for ACWS and its members in honing our collective ability to evaluate and to genuinely learn from the people we serve.

On the training front, we delivered impactful Danger Assessment training led by Dr. Jaquelyn Campbell of Johns Hopkins University and Noreen Cotton—for the first time in virtual format—providing critical skills to frontline shelter staff and helping keep women and children safe from violence.

We had fruitful relationships with partners and funders this year. An EPCOR Heart Soul grant helped to fund our Leading Change Expansion Pack project, which brought toolkits into the hands of people in their homes, to change culture and help end gender-based violence. With support from the Shoppers Drug Mart partnership, the Women’s Emergency Shelter Fund assisted many shelter clients to meet their essential needs.



Across the organization, both board and staff embarked on critically analyzing our policies and approaches as part of our commitment to an anti-racism and anti-oppression framework. We continue our journey to reconciliation and building relationships with Indigenous communities through our Statement of Principles and Values and related action plan (see update on page 14) and are fully committed to forwarding the Calls to Justice from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Inquiry.

We thank everyone who helped advance our work this year: our government funders, our corporate sponsors and individual donors who help us to support our members in their ongoing mission. We would like to thank Pamela Wicks, Brian Simpson and Pat Garrett, our outgoing board members for their consistent contributions to ACWS, all serving the maximum 6-year terms and Tracy Lee who completed her first term on the board. This was a particularly challenging year and we greatly appreciate their service, their insights and their wisdom that allowed us to continue to advance our collective vision of a world free from violence and abuse.

Yours sincerely,



Gaye Warthe  
President



Jan Reimer  
Executive Director



# Thank you to our Sponsors, Funders and Donors

## Government Funders

Alberta Community and Social Services  
Alberta Labour  
Women and Gender Equality Canada

## Community & Corporate Supporters

Shoppers Drug Mart  
EPCOR  
Rogers  
Wolfe Automotive Group  
The Gifts of Hope Committee  
IODE Provincial Chapter of Alberta  
Brownlee LLP  
The Tenaquip Foundation  
Edmonton Community Foundation – Uitas Fund  
United Nurses of Alberta  
Calgary Foundation for Rickbeil Family Fund  
Alberta Federation of Labour

We would also like to thank our supporters who contributed in-kind donations.  
Thank you to H&M, Uber, Jamieson, and the Edmonton Community Foundation  
for your generous support.



## Featured Donors\*

RBC Automotive Finance  
Arrow Capital Management Inc.  
Cenovus Energy Inc.  
Sutton Place Hotel  
Edward and Marina Masson  
Keg River Chemical Corp.  
DIALOG Alberta Architecture Engineering  
Interior Design Planning Inc.  
Cornell K. Lee Professional Corporation  
Frank Maguire  
William & Rita Brese  
Economical Insurance Group  
United Nurses of Alberta

The work we do is possible because of our supporters. Each year we are fortunate to have a dedicated group of individual monthly donors as well as many donors who have provided annual or one-time gifts from their hearts. There is no way to truly thank you enough for being a part of the journey to end violence against women. Thank you to each of you from all of us. We are truly grateful.

# Thank You!



\*These featured donors gave us permission to acknowledge them by name.

# Social Legal and Ethics Committee Report

While demands of Covid meant that our focus has been on supporting ACWS members to the best of our ability, the Committee also had a number of key areas that they have been working on.

Our Terms of Reference were reviewed and updated so that our committee could be more agile by reducing the size and providing the option to adding subcommittees to address emerging issues. Arising from a need identified in the Leading Change Summit, a policy brief on funding engaging men and boys initiatives was developed in conjunction with SHIFT, and circulated to both members and funders. The Workforce Survey of members was nearing completion at the end of this fiscal year with a report going to members along with recommendations relating to policy in April of 2021.

Our Committee also provided feedback to staff about a possible position statement related to systemic racism as the board and staff work on furthering our anti-racism and anti-oppression frameworks.

2021-22 began with a focus on the new Divorce Act. We started preparing information for legal practitioners on some of the key changes that potentially offer greater support for women fleeing violence: the language has changed eliminating the term "custody & access" and replaced it with "parenting order", "contact order", "decision-making responsibility" and "parenting time"; domestic violence has a more expansive definition which includes coercive controlling behaviours, psychological and financial abuse; and the risk of on the psychological harm done to a child.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of our committee over the last fiscal year: Jessica Chapman, Suleka Mustapha and Pat Garret (partial term).

Submitted by:

Sandy Vander Ziel  
Chair, SLEC Committee



# Board Governance Report

The calendar year of 2020 proved to be a difficult year for many organizations and ACWS was no different. The advent of COVID 19 and the death of George Floyd in May of 2020 proved to be catalysts for change to the “normal” way we did business.

Due to COVID 19, our ability to meet in person as both a board and as a governance committee changed all our meetings to online formats. This format was also adopted for our Annual General Meeting and led to difficulties in recruiting new board members. Following the AGM, we were left with several board vacancies. Fortunately, two of our former board members agreed to extend their terms until replacements could be found. Over the past 8 months, we have had 4 additional positions to fill. Much of the committee’s energies have been spent on developing relationships and networks to be able to bring new faces and skills to the table. It is hoped that by the end of June, we will have a complete complement of board members around the board table.

Although the year has been challenging in finding board members, it has afforded us an opportunity to reassess how we add diversity to our organization particularly at the board level. ACWS has been active in reviewing its organizational structure and culture in response to the Canadian government’s Truth and Reconciliation report but with the death of George Floyd and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, we have come to realize that there is still much more work to be done. We have been fortunate to bring more diversity to the board with an increased number of BIPOC faces. There are still communities underrepresented but we will strive to address this in our future recruitment efforts.

As well as increasing our board diversity, much discussion has occurred as to how we apply an antiracism lens to our structure, policies and practices. We have been researching structures and perspectives that uphold racist practices and



perspectives, as well as identifying toolboxes that can be utilized in reviewing how we can tear down the practices of racism within our organization. The board governance committee is engaging, and will continue to engage, the board in the identification of our racist practices and perspectives as this year closes and we start 2021-22.

In closing, I would like to thank my committee members, Michele Thompson, Wanda McGinnis, and Jessica Chapman for all their hard work and dedication to the objectives of the committee. Additionally, we are grateful for the support and professionalism shown to us by Jan and her staff.

Submitted by:

Jeannette Sandstra  
Chair, Board Governance Committee



# Treasurer's Report

This 2020-2021 year saw the passing of the torch from Pamela Wicks, who has served as our Treasurer for the past six years to Debbie Ma, who assumed this role in January 2021.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Management (FARM) committee diligently worked to fulfill its duties as a committee of the ACWS Board of Directors. The work done by our committee, in line with the committee mandate, ensured that the board was kept up to date on the financial position of the organization in order to carry out its obligations and responsibilities related to financial governance, oversight and risk management.

As in prior years, the significant components of the work of the committee related to the annual budget, the interim and annual financial statements, the review of investments and the review and updating of related board policies relating to our financial and risk management responsibilities.

This year we again reviewed our membership fee structure and they were not increased given the challenges of the pandemic complicated by the economic downturn. Membership fees have not been increased since 2018.

Despite the additional challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the 2020-2021 annual audit by Metrix LLP was completed as scheduled. In June, the committee met to review the audited financial statements with the auditor. The financial statements were subsequently approved by the Board of Directors on June 25, 2021.

Financially, ACWS had another excellent year largely in part as our fundraising initiatives did remarkably well given the pandemic. We have worked to diversify our



revenue streams through an evolving fund development strategy. Generous funding received from the Rogers Family Foundation was distributed by the national network, Women's Shelters Canada, to help build the capacity of the Violence Against Women (VAW) sector across the country. Revenue also was bolstered by the Canada Wage Subsidy.

We reallocated our surplus to continue our journey of having a stabilization reserve should we face unanticipated financial challenges or a major shortfall of funding/government grants. We are pleased to confirm we have now met and exceeded this target amount of four months of operating costs (approximately \$700,000) in the stabilization reserve.

Our totals at year-end are as follows:

Capital Asset Replacement Reserve (Equip. Reserve)	\$ 35,000
Stabilization Fund	\$996,117
Conference Legacy Fund	\$103,193
Social Enterprise Fund	\$250,479
Moving/Renovation Reserve	\$ 20,000

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow FARM Committee members: Michele Taylor, Jerri Taylor and Pamela Wicks for their contributions during the past fiscal year. Also, thank you to the ACWS staff members, who did an excellent job in preparing the detailed financial information and related documentation for the committee, making our work go smoothly.

Submitted by:



Debbie Ma

Board Treasurer, Chair, Finance, Audit and Risk Committee



# Statement of Principles, Values, and Commitments to Actions for Indigenous Women, Girls, and their Families

One of ACWS' commitments in our Statement of Principles, Values, and Commitment to Actions for Indigenous Women, Girls, and their Families developed in consultation with on reserve members and the Alberta Native Friendship Association a number of years ago is to annually report on our progress.

Our 2020-21 actions include the following:

- We completed the additions to the ACWS website to share treaty acknowledgements and the Stepping into the Circle learning resources. We publicly posted our Commitments to Action and our Statement of Principles and Values on the Journey to Reconciliation page, which had received 201 visits from its creation in October 2020 to the end of the fiscal year. The Stepping into the Circle page on the website had 1,042 visits over the course of the year, and is a valuable resource used by ACWS members and external organizations.
- The Reconciliation Fund entered its second year. From December 2020 to January 2021, ACWS hosted an online fundraiser with the Alberta Federation of Labour for the Reconciliation Fund and raised \$7,354 for on-reserve shelters to support Indigenous women and their children. This fund supported Sucker Creek shelter to acquire computers for children to assist with their schooling during the pandemic.
- ACWS continues to acknowledge the traditional territories and treaties at all of our meetings, at both the board level and the staff level, as well as on our bi-weekly meetings with shelter directors. We also do land acknowledgements in our external meetings with third parties and have continued our learnings on the treaties and the meaning behind these acknowledgements.



- We strongly advocated for the need for inclusivity in the application of Clare's Law, which came into effect this year. We recognized the challenges that were faced in terms of lack of Indigenous representation on the Clare's Law Social Services Advisory Committee and advocated for their inclusion. We have continued to push for inclusivity and an Indigenous lens in the application process, and publicly posted about it in our website's inaugural blog post and on social media. We supported the concerns raised by the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association and other organizations who identified the problem of substantial police involvement in the process and the requirement of background record checks for people wanting to access Clare's Law.
- Through the Blueprint Project launched in September 2020, we set a commitment to create welcoming and safe spaces for Indigenous women, and we continued this work throughout the year. The Blueprint Project seeks to enhance the intersectionality of assessment tools, especially for Indigenous, 2SLGBTQI+, non-status/refugee and immigrant women. The work involves developing a Blueprint based on developmental evaluation for the entire assessment process and ongoing case management to improve women's safety, support empowerment and enhance community partners' understanding of the critical importance of women-centered services.
- We put forward a grant application first to the province under their Civil Society Fund and then with the Feminist Response and Recovery Fund through Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE). Our proposal involved a partnership with the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) and the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS). The collaborative project we proposed, Centring Relationships to End Violence, focuses on reducing intersectional barriers for Indigenous survivors of sexual and domestic violence by strengthening and amplifying community-based approaches. While our application was turned down by the province we were pleased to learn recently that the federal government had approved it!



- ACWS staff participated in ongoing anti-oppression training sessions through the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights. Staff participated in anti-racism sessions and are committed to the work of combating the ongoing harms of colonialism in our organization and community.
- ACWS continues to uphold our commitment to having a minimum of 3 Indigenous voting members on the ACWS Board of Directors.

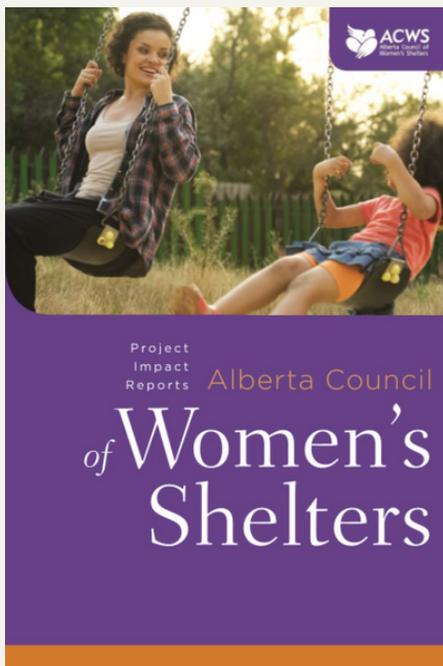
We recognize that we have continued work to do and that there is still a long way to go on our journey to reconciliation. We continue to advocate for a world free from violence and abuse, and we join our partners in calling for an end to systemic and institutional racism. The staff and board of ACWS are committed to continuous learning and improving our anti-racism work to end the ongoing violence experienced by Indigenous peoples.



# Highlights of the Year



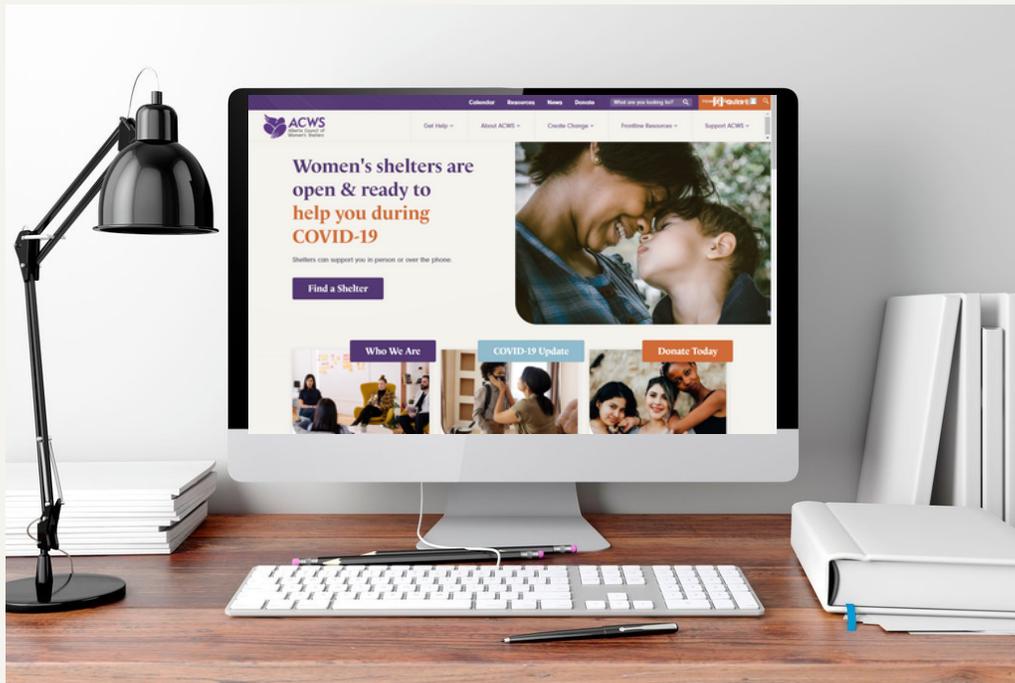
We launched our Leading Change Expansion Pack, fulfilling nearly 400 orders by the end of the fiscal year, and pivoted our Leading Change program sessions online.



We released our findings from Project Impact in a published book.

This has been a groundbreaking initiative for ACWS and our members in honing our skills and abilities to evaluate and to genuinely learn from the people we serve. The evaluations reflect the dedication and commitment of ACWS members to serving people and communities across Alberta with the greatest of care, skill, and knowledge.





We formally launched our new website with a fresh design that helps us communicate our messaging. We also launched our new website blog.



We partnered with Deb Verhoeven at the University of Alberta to develop the ACWS Digital Archive. This partnership spanned three offered courses and worked with nine undergraduate and graduate students through a community-service learning project.





Executive Director, Jan Reimer, celebrated her 20th anniversary with ACWS!

ACWS would like to recognize Jan's leadership and dedication to the important work of supporting shelters. We thank her for her continued service to ACWS, and for her commitment to ending gender-based violence.

Jennifer Ness, Manager, Finance, HR & IT, celebrated her 10th ACWS anniversary this year.

Thank you, Jenn, for 10 fabulous years with the organization!



We successfully nominated the Gifts of Hope Committee for recognition with a National Philanthropy Day Award in celebration of the past eight years of their dedication and support.



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For The Year Ended March 31, 2021**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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To the Members of Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

*Qualified Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (the Organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2021, and the statements of revenues and expenses, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at March 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

*Basis for Qualified Opinion*

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Organization derives revenue from fundraising activities the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Organization. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to fundraising revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the year ended March 31, 2021, current assets and net assets as at March 31, 2021. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2020 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation of scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

*Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

(continues)



*Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**METRIX GROUP LLP**

Chartered Professional Accountants

Edmonton, Alberta  
June 25, 2021

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As at March 31, 2021**

	2021	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash (Note 2)	\$ 2,910,401	\$ 2,338,146
Casino restricted cash (Note 3)	77,814	32,200
Accounts receivable	67,738	70,082
Goods and Services Tax recoverable	17,117	7,898
Prepaid expenses	11,694	2,483
	<u>3,084,764</u>	2,450,809
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	<u>152,932</u>	151,795
	<u>\$ 3,237,696</u>	<u>\$ 2,602,604</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 120,727	\$ 128,002
Accrued vacation payable	29,421	29,247
Deferred contributions- operating (Note 5)	713,160	679,060
	<u>863,308</u>	836,309
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Note 6)	<u>143,108</u>	141,366
	<u>1,006,416</u>	977,675
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted fund	816,668	907,169
Internally restricted (Note 7)	1,404,789	707,332
Invested in tangible capital asset	9,823	10,428
	<u>2,231,280</u>	1,624,929
	<u>\$ 3,237,696</u>	<u>\$ 2,602,604</u>
LEASE COMMITMENTS (Note 8)		

ON BEHALF OF D. Gary Wallace  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Director  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenses**  
**For The Year Ended March 31, 2021**

	2021	2020
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Grants ( <i>Schedule 1</i> )	\$ 1,780,315	\$ 1,894,824
Donations	360,837	375,557
Membership fees	79,250	78,575
Interest and other	55,433	55,670
Amortization - deferred capital contributions ( <i>Note 6</i> )	38,518	5,031
Training	16,280	54,425
Casino	4,227	22,866
Sponsorships	2,500	46,875
Event registration	380	35,103
	<u>2,337,740</u>	<u>2,568,926</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries, wages and benefits	1,140,908	1,069,898
Program expenses	604,715	845,586
Professional fees	78,055	14,863
Occupancy costs	51,285	58,119
Office	49,822	41,524
Amortization	43,732	16,763
Recruitment and training	22,195	8,283
Gifts and honorariums	19,182	36,838
Telephone	10,982	6,229
Interest and bank charges	6,829	7,819
Minor office equipment	2,242	4,341
Insurance	1,040	2,296
Annual general meeting	546	15,606
	<u>2,031,533</u>	<u>2,128,165</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>306,207</b>	<b>440,761</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Government subsidy ( <i>Note 11</i> )	<u>300,144</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 606,351</b>	<b>\$ 440,761</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2021**

	Unrestricted Fund	Internally Restricted	Invested in Tangible Capital Asset	2021	2020
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 907,169	\$ 707,332	\$ 10,428	\$ <b>1,624,929</b>	\$ 1,184,168
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	606,351	-	-	<b>606,351</b>	440,761
Internal reserve transfers ( <i>Note 7</i> )	(697,457)	697,457	-	-	-
Purchases of tangible capital assets	(44,869)	-	44,869	-	-
Amortization of tangible capital assets	43,732	-	(43,732)	-	-
Funding provided for tangible capital assets	40,260	-	(40,260)	-	-
Amortization of deferred capital contribution ( <i>Note 6</i> )	(38,518)	-	38,518	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 816,668	\$ 1,404,789	\$ 9,823	\$ <b>2,231,280</b>	\$ 1,624,929

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2021**

	2021	2020
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 606,351	\$ 440,761
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization	43,732	16,763
Amortization - deferred capital contributions	<u>(38,518)</u>	<u>(5,031)</u>
	<b>611,565</b>	<b>452,493</b>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	2,344	(10,740)
Prepaid expenses	(9,211)	(1,090)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(7,275)	91,081
GST payable (receivable)	(9,219)	3,762
Accrued vacation payable	174	29,247
Deferred contributions- operating	<u>34,100</u>	<u>(361,001)</u>
	<b>10,913</b>	<b>(248,741)</b>
	<b>622,478</b>	<b>203,752</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITY</b>		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	<u>(44,869)</u>	<u>(141,511)</u>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITY</b>		
Deferred capital contribution	<u>40,260</u>	<u>141,511</u>
<b>INCREASE IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>617,869</b>	<b>203,752</b>
Cash - beginning of year	<u>2,370,346</u>	<u>2,166,594</u>
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 2,988,215</b>	<b>\$ 2,370,346</b>
<b>CASH CONSISTS OF:</b>		
Cash	\$ 2,910,401	\$ 2,338,146
Casino restricted cash	<u>77,814</u>	<u>32,200</u>
	<b>\$ 2,988,215</b>	<b>\$ 2,370,346</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

### Notes to Financial Statements

For the Year Ended March 31, 2021

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#### PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (the "Organization") is a not-for-profit organization incorporated provincially under the Societies Act of Alberta on April 11, 1983. As a registered charity the Organization is exempt from the payment of income tax under Section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The Organization works to:

- Develop a coordinated, collaborative response to family violence;
  - Coordinate funding and improve services in order to better meet the needs of abused women, their children and abused seniors;
  - Educate the public and professionals about prevention of, and responses to, spousal and senior abuse;
  - Initiate, conduct and/or participate in research relating to the causes, impacts, prevention of family violence, and elimination of violence against women, children and seniors.
- 

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

##### Revenue recognition

The Organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, which include donations and government grants.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted contributions for the purchase of tangible capital assets are deferred and amortized into revenue at a rate corresponding with the amortization rate for the related tangible capital assets.

Membership fees and interest income is recognized as revenue as earned.

##### Contributed services

The operations of the Organization depend on both the contribution of time by volunteers and donated materials from various sources. The fair value of donated materials and services cannot be reasonably determined and are therefore not reflected in these financial statements.

*(continues)*

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**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended March 31, 2021**

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1. **SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** *(continued)*

Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization and are amortized over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis at the following rates and methods:

Office equipment	20%	straight-line method
Computer equipment and software	33 1/2%	straight-line method
Leasehold improvements	20%	straight-line method

The Organization regularly reviews its tangible capital assets to eliminate obsolete items.

Tangible capital assets acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

Financial instruments

*Measurement of financial instruments*

The Organization initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value adjusted by, in the case of a financial instrument that will not be measured subsequently at fair value, the amount of transaction costs directly attributable to the instruments.

The Organization subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in net income.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and cash equivalents and accounts receivable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

The Organization has no financial assets measured at fair value.

*Impairment*

Financial assets measured at cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. The amount of the write-down is recognized in net income. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in net income.

*Transaction costs*

The Organization recognizes its transaction costs in net income in the period incurred. However, the carrying amount of the financial instruments that will not be subsequently measured at fair value is reflected in the transaction costs that are directly attributable to their organization, issuance or assumption.

*(continues)*

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**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2021**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** *(continued)*

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the recorded amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Significant areas requiring the use of management's estimates include the useful lives of tangible capital assets and the corresponding rates of amortization, recoverability of accounts receivable and the amount of accrued liabilities. All estimates are reviewed periodically and adjustments are made to the statement of operations as appropriate in the year they become known.

**2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise of the following:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operating cash	\$ 2,865,509	\$ 2,303,510
Money market funds	44,892	34,636
	<u>\$ 2,910,401</u>	<u>\$ 2,338,146</u>

**3. CASINO RESTRICTED CASH**

Funds gained from a Casino event are placed in a separate bank account. These funds, which total \$77,814 (2020 - \$32,200) at year end, are restricted in that they may only be used for expenses related to operating the charitable gaming event as well as for the purposes stated in the charity's gaming license application. The current license indicated that the funds would be used for occupational and administrative costs, the production of newsletters, program related equipment, hosting conference/seminars/trainings for volunteers as well as website development and maintenance.

**4. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS**

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	<b>2021 Net book value</b>	2020 Net book value
Computer equipment and software	\$ 48,428	\$ (40,377)	\$ 8,051	\$ 6,755
Leasehold improvements	34,215	(27,372)	6,843	13,686
Website	155,595	(31,119)	124,476	131,354
Office equipment	72,983	(59,421)	13,562	-
	<u>\$ 311,221</u>	<u>\$ (158,289)</u>	<u>\$ 152,932</u>	<u>\$ 151,795</u>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2021**

**5. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - OPERATING**

	<b>2020</b>	Funds received	Revenue recognized	<b>2021</b>
<u>Projects</u>				
ACWS Members - Member Contribution Training Fund	110,013	\$ 21,961	\$ -	<b>\$ 131,974</b>
AFL Justice Fund- Support for Indigenous Women	17,882	7,354	(8,941)	<b>16,295</b>
EPCOR- Leading Change	-	50,000	(50,000)	-
Edmonton Police Foundation - School Resource Officer DV Training	22,178	-	-	<b>22,178</b>
Edmonton Community Foundation Vital Signs Grant	8,976	-	(42)	<b>8,934</b>
Family Business Connect - DV and its impact upon the Workplace, Family and Community	185,624	-	-	<b>185,624</b>
GOA, Labour - Awareness Tools for Alberta Employers of Workplace Violence	12,063	-	(12,063)	-
GOC, WaGE - Promising Practices To Support Survivors and their Families	29,940	-	(29,940)	-
GOC, WaGE - Building Collective Capacity	26,126	232,571	(258,697)	-
GOC, WaGE- Enhancing women-centred practice	90,540	177,193	(267,733)	-
IODE- Children's Curriculum	-	9,950	-	<b>9,950</b>
Muttart Foundation- Project Impact training	5,000	-	-	<b>5,000</b>
Rogers- Building the capacity of the Violence Against WOMens sector	-	222,500	-	<b>222,500</b>
Shoppers Drug Mart- Love You Fund	78,696	-	(69,880)	<b>8,816</b>
<b>Total project deferred contribution</b>	<b>587,038</b>	<b>721,529</b>	<b>(697,296)</b>	<b>611,271</b>

*(continues)*

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2021**

5. **DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - OPERATING** *(continued)*

	2020	Funds received	Revenue recognized	2021
<u>Unearned revenue</u>				
Membership fees received in advance	-	23,500	-	<b>23,500</b>
Training fees received in advance	575	-	-	<b>575</b>
Membership fees received in advance	575	23,500	-	<b>24,075</b>
<u>Casino funds</u>				
Casino restricted funds	91,447	44,690	(58,323)	<b>77,814</b>
	<b>\$ 679,060</b>	<b>\$ 789,719</b>	<b>\$ (755,619)</b>	<b>\$ 713,160</b>

ACWS - Alberta Council of Women's Shelters  
AFL- Alberta Federation of Labour  
CSS - Community and Social Services  
DV - Domestic Violence  
GOA - Government of Alberta;  
GOC - Government of Canada;  
IODE- Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire  
WaGE - Women and Gender Equality

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2021**

**6. DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Deferred capital contributions represent restricted contributions with which some of the Organization's tangible capital assets were purchased. The changes in these contributions are as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 141,366	\$ 4,886
Add:		
Contributions received	40,260	141,511
Less:		
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	<u>(38,518)</u>	<u>(5,031)</u>
Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 143,108</u>	<u>\$ 141,366</u>

**7. INTERNAL RESTRICTIONS**

The Board of Directors of the Organization has allocated funds for specifically identified purposes. The Organization may not use these internally restricted funds for any other purpose without the approval of the Board of Directors.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Stabilization reserve		
The Organization has established a stabilization reserve to hold four months of operating expenses.	\$ 996,117	\$ 322,000
Conference Legacy fund		
The Organization has established a reserve to be used for dissemination and follow-up activities related to ACWS hosted conferences.	103,193	103,193
Equipment reserve		
The Organization has established a reserve for future capital equipment purchases.	35,000	30,000
Moving/Renovation reserve		
The Organization has established a reserve for moving and renovation expenditures.	20,000	15,000
Social Enterprise fund		
The Organization has established a fund to ensure program stabilization and expansion.	<u>250,479</u>	<u>237,139</u>
	<u>\$ 1,404,789</u>	<u>\$ 707,332</u>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2021**

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**8. LEASE COMMITMENTS**

The Organization has an operating lease with respect to its premises effective June 1, 2017, expiring May 31, 2022. The lease contains renewal options at the end of the lease for an additional five year term. Future minimum lease payments as at March 31, 2021, are as follows:

2022	<u>\$ 25,550</u>
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**9. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Organization's risk exposure and concentration as of March 31, 2021.

**(a) Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Organization is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its sponsors, donors and funding agencies to meet their financial liabilities. The Organization mitigates this risk by ensuring operational and capital costs are appropriately budgeted for on an ongoing basis.

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Organization is not exposed to significant other price risks arising from these financial instruments.

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**10. COMPARATIVE FIGURES**

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

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**11. COVID-19 UNCERTAINTY**

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic which has resulted in governments worldwide enacting emergency measures to combat the spread of the virus. These measures have caused significant disruptions to businesses, governments, and other organizations resulting in an economic slow-down and increased volatility. Governments have responded with significant monetary and fiscal interventions designed to stabilize economic conditions.

While COVID-19 has not significantly impacted the Organization's operations or financial condition to date, the rapidly evolving event, including health and safety conditions, economic environment and resulting government measures, creates a high level of uncertainty and risk that may have a financial impact on the Organization's activities, operations and financial condition in the future.

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**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**
**Grants Schedule (Recognized Revenue)**
**(Schedule 1)**
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2021**

	2021	2020
<b>AFL Justice Fund</b>	\$ 8,941	\$ -
<b>Canada Alberta Job Grant</b>	-	1,900
<b>Canada Summer Job Grant</b>	9,176	-
<b>Canadian Women's Foundation</b>	25,000	-
<b>Edmonton Community Foundation</b>	42	1,025
<b>Edmonton Heritage Council</b>	-	1,129
<b>EPCOR- Heart &amp; Soul</b>	50,000	-
<b>GOA- AGLC</b>	58,323	34,447
<b>GOA - Community &amp; Social Services</b>		
Operating Grant	995,420	995,420
Measuring Impact; Training & Education; DVWP; Engaging Men & Boys	-	327,683
Aboriginal Communities	-	164,065
<b>GOA - Labour</b>		
OH&S Collective Capacity	-	15,484
Safer Worksites	-	46,337
Awareness Tools	12,063	7,938
<b>GOC - Justice</b>	-	-
<b>GOC - Women &amp; Gender Equality</b>		
2018 Grey Cup	-	43,246
2019 Safest Grey Cup	-	212,000
Building Collective Capacity	258,698	89,198
Enhancing Women's Safety	267,734	118,025
Promising Practice	29,940	-
<b>Shoppers Love You Fund</b>	69,879	1,304
<b>YWCA Canada</b>	40,000	-
	<b>1,825,216</b>	<b>2,059,201</b>
	-	-
Grant funding utilized for capital purchases (Note 6)	(40,260)	(141,511)
Interest income and Raffle Pull Tickets	(4,641)	(22,866)
	<b>\$ 1,780,315</b>	<b>\$ 1,894,824</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.