

"Why become a member of ACWS?"

Raise Awareness & Shift Attitudes:

- Province-wide messaging and the strength of a unified voice.
- Amplify your messages through our social media network.
- Access to the ACWS Members Hub, an online information database and community.
- Receive our e-newsletter, The ACWS Lift.
- 20,231 individuals accessed online information about our members on the 'Find A Shelter' page in 2022 (up from 18,996 the previous year.)
- 100 calls relayed to member shelters every month through the 1-866 Helpline.
- Be a key delivery group for Leading Change training in your community.
- Access to media releases and communication tools that can be adapted for use in your community.
- Access to new data collection app with the potential of greatly reducing member data collection costs.
- The ACWS Annual Data Count: counts what's important to survivors. Without ACWS, the number of turnaways would not be released publicly.
- Participation in ground breaking action-based research.

Access to Information and Expertise:

- Shelter workforce survey (released every 2 years) allows you to benchmark salaries.
- An Ethical and Moral Framework for all members.
- Aggregate quarterly data.
- Promising practices available online, opportunity for you to showcase your practices
- Advocacy with different levels of government – Hill Day and Day at the Leg to introduce members to new government members/cabinet ministers and critics with briefing binders.
- Conferences: in previous years we have hosted an Outcomes Conference and the Leading Change Summit
- ACWS website features a "[Find a Shelter](#)" page listing member shelter names and contact information along with programs offered (child minding, accept pets, etc.)
- Receive timely and effective responses to database development, questions, and challenges.
- Each shelter receives customized care from ACWS.
- Support and online professional development training for board and staff.
- Communities of practice to engage staff and share knowledge.
- Mental health supports for shelter clients through a partnership with the YW.
- Coaching on trauma informed interventions.