

Protecting Alberta's Most Vulnerable

OUR ASK OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT:

1. Immediately increase wages to accommodate for inflation over last 9 years (estimated to be at 23% as of January 2023)
2. Immediately increase operational funding to account for inflation over last 8 years
3. ACWS asks that the Government of Alberta work with us and our members to modernize the shelters standards, update the shelter model, and review and increase operational funding accordingly, recognizing that domestic violence shelters provide an invaluable continuum of care to survivors in their communities.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Recognize and support the critical role that domestic violence shelters play in gender-based violence and family violence prevention, and work with us to ensure that domestic violence shelters are an integral part of the development and implementation of any prevention framework and implementation
2. The pause on capital funding in Alberta means we have insufficient capacity and indeed the shelter stock is aging. We want to work with government to design an accessible model and facilities that meet the needs of Albertans going forward.
3. Ensure an open and transparent process guided by front line expertise for the roll out of the National Action Plan.



QUICK FACTS

- Women's shelters are chronically underfunded
- Last year, Alberta's shelters received over 19,000 requests that couldn't be accommodated because there was not enough space, staffing or resources
- Inflation is forcing some shelters to close unfunded beds, despite demand
- Rural and Indigenous women are disproportionately impacted
- Opportunity to stand up for women and address one of the most urgent societal issues in Alberta
- We need to work together to raise awareness, change behaviors and improve the way our system supports victims and survivors.



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION:

- Alberta could be the first in addressing the recommendations of the Mass Casualty Commission to ensure there is "stable core funding" for groups that help survivors. Governments need to commit to epidemic level funding to the anti-violence sector.
- Accessible Housing Announcement: domestic violence shelters need to be accessible too. When funding for accessible units was recently announced, shelters were not eligible.

