



# ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

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# ABOUT ACWS

At ACWS, we believe that every woman, child, and senior deserves a life free from fear. We are the provincial network of women's and seniors' shelters in Alberta, supporting 41 members that operate over 50 shelters across the province. Since 1983, we've stood together as a voice for survivors and a force for change in the fight to end domestic violence.

## MISSION

Our mission is to support ACWS members and work together to end domestic violence and abuse.

## VISION

We believe in a world free from violence and abuse.

## VALUES

### Safety, Equality, and Empowerment

We believe that everyone, regardless of gender, background, or identity, deserves to live free from fear and violence. Our work is grounded in a commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and gender-diverse individuals. We centre the voices of survivors and recognize their strengths as we advocate for systemic change and create women-focused, trauma-informed services that improve outcomes, strengthen families, and build safer communities.

### Inclusion and Dignity

ACWS and our member shelters are committed to creating inclusive, welcoming spaces for all survivors, regardless of race, religion, age, ability, income, sexual orientation, or gender identity. We recognize that domestic and gender-based violence are rooted in inequality and that true safety requires dignity, respect, and culturally affirming care for everyone who seeks help.

### Partnership and Collective Strength

Ending domestic violence requires all of us working together. We believe in the power of strong, meaningful partnerships with our members, governments, communities, and survivors. Through collaboration, we can challenge harmful norms, drive prevention efforts, and create lasting solutions that go beyond emergency response.



## Standing with Gender-Diverse Survivors

We acknowledge that existing systems often fail to meet the needs of gender-diverse survivors. While our work primarily supports women, who are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence, we stand in solidarity with all survivors. We are committed to advocating for more inclusive policies, services, and resources that recognize the diverse realities of those affected by abuse.

## Stewardship for a Safer Future

We honour the legacy of the women who came before us and carry that responsibility into the future. We are committed to transparency, accountability, and sustainability in our work, our relationships, and our impact. We also recognize the deep connection between safety, justice, and care for the planet we share.

## Reconciliation and Respect for Indigenous Peoples

ACWS is committed to reconciliation and meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities. We work alongside elders, leaders, and on-reserve shelters to deepen understanding of Indigenous histories and cultures. Through this collaboration, we've developed tools, training, and practices that honour Indigenous voices and support culturally safe responses to violence. We acknowledge the ongoing impacts of colonialism and are committed to a future rooted in justice, healing, and respect.

## 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.

ACWS is located on Treaty 6 land in Amiskwacîwâskahikan, 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, the Métis people of western Canada, and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. 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 6, 7, and 8 lands across this province which include the five Métis territories of Alberta.





# Message from the President



At ACWS, we know that collaboration leads to greater impact and that together, we can end domestic violence. This year has been one of profound transition, meaningful achievements, and renewed commitment to our mission: supporting survivors of family violence and the shelters across the province that care for them. We've navigated leadership changes and celebrated significant milestones, all while witnessing the unwavering dedication and resilience of our sector.

This year marked a pivotal moment for our organization with the retirement of our esteemed Executive Director, Jan Reimer, who served with unparalleled dedication for over 25 years. Her visionary leadership, tireless advocacy, and compassionate approach have laid a solid foundation for our work, ensuring that survivors and their families have a safe haven and a voice. On

behalf of the board, staff, volunteers, and the countless lives she has touched, I extend our deepest gratitude for her exemplary service. At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome our new Executive Director, Catherine Champagne, who has stepped into this role with passion, vision, and an inspiring commitment to our mission. Her fresh perspective and innovative ideas are already guiding us toward a bold future, strengthening our programs and advocacy efforts. We look forward to the direction she will take us, confident that her leadership will amplify our impact in supporting survivors and driving systemic change.

Among the many achievements of 2024, the Survivor Speaks documentary stands out as a powerful testament to the resilience of survivors and the urgent need for change within the justice system. This impactful project has resonated deeply within our community, sparking critical conversations about survivors' experiences and the barriers they face.

In 2024, we also deepened our relationship with the provincial government, collaborating closely to advocate for increased funding in the 2025 budget. These efforts underscore our commitment to securing sustainable resources to support survivors and enhance our programs.

Our work is only possible because of the incredible dedication of our staff, volunteers, and stakeholders. To our sector employees—your resilience and commitment to women, children, and gender-diverse individuals are truly life-changing. To our volunteers, your generosity uplifts our work. And to our stakeholders, your support drives our mission forward. Thank you for standing with us.

As we move into 2025, we carry forward the legacy and the strength of our board, staff, and community. We are at a critical opportunity to expand our reach and deepen our impact, and we are committed to advocating fiercely for it.

Together, we will continue to build a future where survivors are supported, empowered, and heard.

With heartfelt gratitude and optimism,

**Sandy Vander Ziel**

President, ACWS



## ACWS Board of Directors 2024-25

ACWS unites volunteers, advocates, and supporters to create systemic change and stop the cycle of abuse. The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters is led by a volunteer Board of Directors committed to ending domestic violence and fostering a safer Alberta.

**Sandy Vander Ziel**, President

**Jessica Chapman**, Vice President

**Keaton Harris**,  
Treasurer & Public Director

**Beba Svigir**, Secretary

**Jill Young**

**Becky Wells**

**Leslie Allen**

**Christine Moore**

**Jerri Taylor**

**Janice Willier**

**Wilda Listener**

**Jennifer Kwan**

### **Board Committees:**

Board Governance

Finance, Audit and Risk  
Management (FARM)

Social, Legal Issues and Ethics

A heartfelt thanks to the board members who are stepping down: Christine Moore, Janice Willier, Jessica Chapman, and Leslie Allen. Your dedication and hard work have left an indelible mark on our organization, and we are grateful for your service.

# Message from the Executive Director



It is with great pride and humility that I share my first annual report as Executive Director of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS). Stepping into this role has been both an honour and a responsibility.

Over the past year, I have been inspired by the courage of survivors, the continued dedication of shelter staff, and the resilience of our membership. I am deeply grateful to our members, board, staff, and partners who have welcomed me and shared their wisdom as I found my footing in this role.

A key focus of my first year has been listening—listening to survivors, to shelters, and to the partners who walk alongside us. From this, one theme has been clear: we are stronger together. ACWS has worked to re-energize relationships across the province, strengthening collaboration with members, community allies, and government. Our advocacy reflected these conversations, elevating the urgent need for sustainable funding, greater understanding and recognition of gender-based violence, and systemic responses that address its causes and impacts.

Last year, Alberta's shelters responded to tens of thousands of calls for help and provided critical services including housing support, legal advocacy, life skills, and safety planning. Over 14,000 people were served, with more than 8,100 survivors and children admitted to in-shelter programs. Despite these efforts, nearly 32,000 people were turned away due to lack of space, including a record 40% children—underscoring the urgent need for sustainable funding and systemic support. Domestic violence is an everyone problem and requires an everyone solution. ACWS remains committed to reducing the administrative burden on shelters so they can focus on what matters most: supporting survivors.

This year, ACWS advanced initiatives that strengthen member capacity and deepen sector collaboration. Centring Relationships to End Violence (CREV) brought Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners together to improve culturally safe responses, while the Case Management Foundations framework provided shelters with practical, trauma-informed tools to enhance frontline support. Both reflect our member-focused vision—programs designed to meet shelters where they are at and build the skills and relationships needed to serve survivors effectively. Training sessions on trauma-informed practice and leadership development provided spaces for learning, knowledge sharing, and problem-solving, ensuring shelters are better equipped to meet growing needs in Alberta's evolving landscape.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary ACWS staff team. Their expertise, dedication, and passion underpin every program, advocacy initiative, publication, and training we deliver. Their unwavering commitment to supporting shelters and survivors is inspiring, and I am proud and grateful to work alongside them each day.

Reflecting on my first year, I am proud of the progress made in rebuilding relationships, strengthening collaboration, and sharpening our member-focused vision. ACWS will continue to push for systemic change, reduce barriers for shelters, and build on initiatives like CREV and Case Management Foundations to ensure stronger, safer futures for all.

With gratitude,

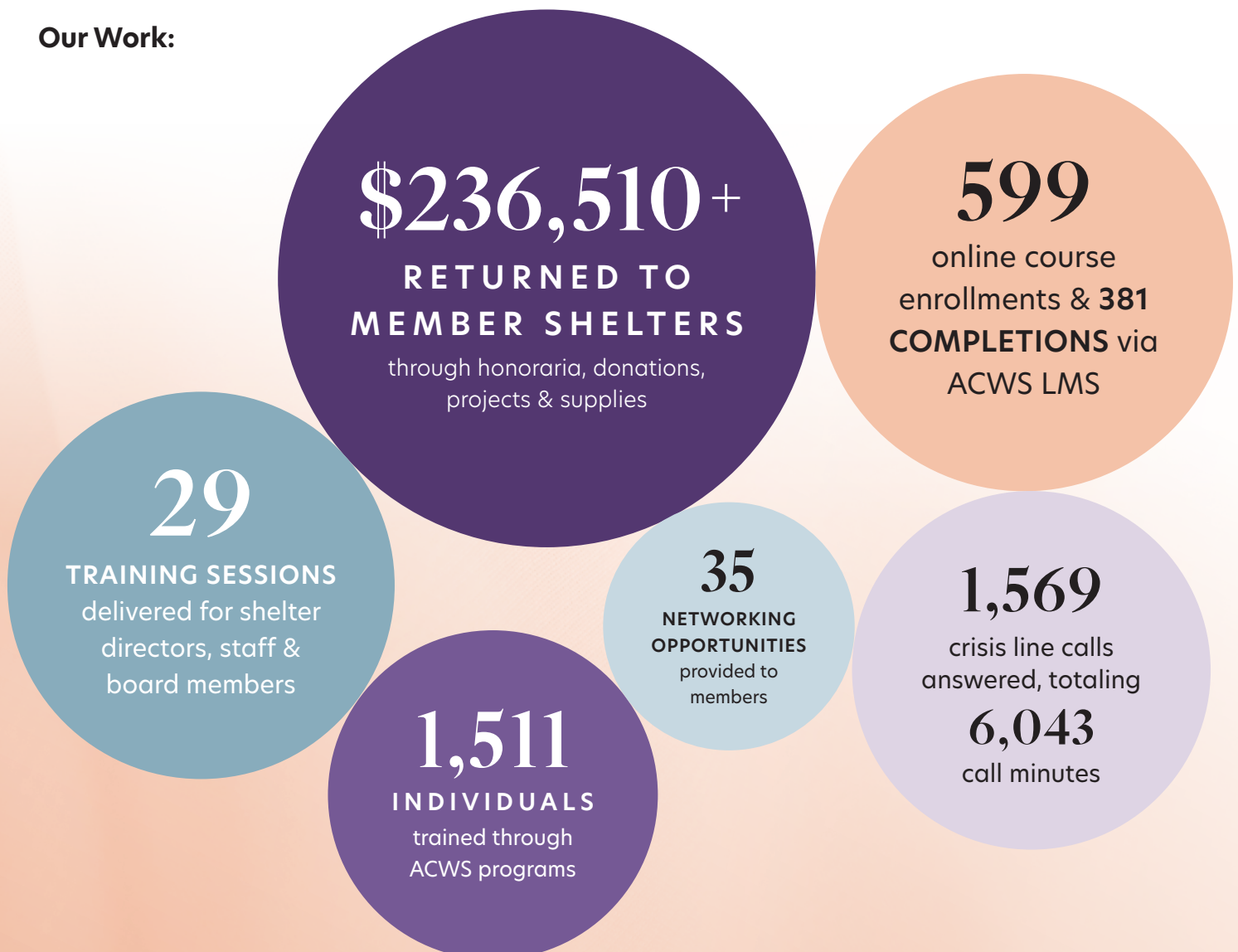
**Catherine (Cat) Champagne**  
Executive Director

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) has released its 2023-24 Shelter Impact Report, revealing a continued rise in demand for shelter services and the urgent need for sustained support to keep up with the growing complexity of survivors' needs.

## ACWS in Action

As the unified voice for domestic violence shelters in Alberta for over 40 years, ACWS has led the charge on some of the most significant policy, training, and research initiatives in the province. We've developed trauma-informed teachings, launched public awareness campaigns, partnered with Indigenous communities on reconciliation efforts, and advocated for sustainable funding and survivor-centred policy reform.

### Our Work:





## From Innovation to Impact: ACWS' Inaugural Innovations Conference

**“It is your skills, your adaptations, your ingenuity, and your courage that keeps women, children, and seniors safe from abuse.”**

— Cat Champagne, Executive Director, ACWS

In October 2024, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters proudly hosted its inaugural Innovations Conference—an inspiring 2-day gathering of 163 attendees from front-line workers to senior leaders. This unique event celebrated the creativity, resilience, and dedication of Alberta's shelters, spotlighting groundbreaking programs and progressive sector developments. Guided by the ACWS Ethical Moral Framework and a commitment to inclusivity, participants engaged with leading experts, academics, and peers to explore new approaches to support survivors, in particular those from marginalized communities. Highlights included compelling presentations, knowledge-sharing, and a keynote by renowned resilience researcher Dr. Michael Ungar. Together, the conference reaffirmed that innovation is at the heart of keeping Alberta's women, children, and seniors safe, as shelters continue to adapt, learn, and lead change for a violence-free future.







## No One Left Behind: Ensuring Safe, Reliable Transportation for Survivors

**“We deeply respect the critical work ACWS does and are grateful to have played a small part in supporting it.”** — Matt Bourdot,

CANZ Bespoke Services Inc. (Driverseat Calgary West)

From October 2024 through July 2025, CANZ Bespoke Services (Driverseat Calgary West) played a crucial role in supporting ACWS member shelters, Rowan House and True North, by providing safe and reliable transportation for survivors of domestic violence. Recognizing that transportation can be a significant barrier to accessing shelter and essential services, Driverseat served 189 individuals and also contributed generously through discounted rates, totaling over \$10,850 in donated services during this period. This partnership exemplifies the spirit of community collaboration that is vital to ACWS's mission of supporting women, children, and seniors in crisis. Their support has directly helped many survivors overcome logistical hurdles, allowing them to focus on recovery and rebuild their lives with support and dignity.

## Centering Survivors: Survivor Speaks Documentary Screening

**“An impactful documentary that captures the resilience of survivors as they confront the legal system and fight to be heard.”**

— Cat Champagne, Executive Director, ACWS

The film *Survivors Speak* premiered May 15, 2024 at NorthwestFest International Documentary Festival. Featuring survivors of domestic violence breaking their

silence, the film explains what survivors wish lawyers and judges knew about intimate partner violence before they faced their abuser in court. Working with filmmaker, Jarvis Greiner of Hot Shots Films, in partnership with Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, the powerful documentary features seven survivors of domestic violence sharing first-hand experiences of navigating complex, often retraumatizing legal processes. The film, including the toolkit created by ACWS are available to our members, free of charge, to host their own screenings within their local community to build awareness and raise funds.

## Gifts of Hope 2025: The Art of Advocacy

**“Excellent event! I had a great time and the speakers were wonderful. Thank you for putting it on and for all that you do.”**

— Anonymous Attendee

As ACWS's signature fundraising event, Gifts of Hope raises crucial funds that support our programs and services, including training and resources for the shelter sector, advocacy to increase access and support for survivors of gender-based violence, survivor and shelter-led research and our violence prevention programming. This year's event was sold-out, welcoming 150 attendees with almost \$60,000 in raised funds to support our essential work to end domestic violence in the province.





## Creating Systemic Change: Danger Assessment Training for Lawyers

**“The most valuable part of the training for me is that I was able to cure my ignorance about domestic abuse and the fact the abuse cuts across both heterosexual and non-heterosexual families.”** – Lawyer who participated in DAT training

The Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters was able to launch existing programming with Danger Assessment training people who work within the legal or justice system. The project allowed ACWS to provide additional training to our members about the justice system and helped to break down silos and build relationships between legal professionals. Over the course of 20 sessions, 403 Alberta lawyers have been trained in administering the Danger Assessment. This means that these lawyers have a greater understanding of the risk of lethality (femicide), gender-based violence, and intersectionality. The connections made between lawyers and shelter workers have shown potential to support both parties involved – lawyers can access shelter workers in cases where they may need an expert witness, and shelter workers can help clients connect with lawyers who have a trauma informed approach. This project helped to underscore the importance of centring relationships to create systemic change.

## The 2023-2024 ACWS Report on Domestic Violence Shelter Impact In Alberta Release

**“Shelters are more than a place to stay—they provide survivors with the tools, resources, and support networks they need to heal and regain independence. The success stories we see every day prove that when we invest in shelters, we invest in safer communities for everyone.”**

– Cat Champagne, Executive Director, ACWS

The Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters (ACWS) released its 2023-24 Shelter Impact Report, revealing the continued rise in demand for shelter services and the urgent need for sustained support to keep up with the growing complexity of survivors’ needs. The report calls for continued investment in shelter services, stronger partnerships across sectors, and policy changes that address systemic barriers survivors face, especially in rural and remote areas, where intimate partner violence rates remain disproportionately high. As Alberta’s domestic violence shelters work tirelessly to meet increasing demand, the need for long-term solutions has never been clearer. The media event was attended by all major media outlets. This release is a reminder of importance of shelters across the province and how they remain a steadfast source of safety and healing so survivors can rebuild their lives.

# Board Committee Reports

## Board Governance Committee: Strengthening Leadership for Tomorrow

During the 2024-2025 term, the Board Governance Committee took significant strides in enhancing the foundation of ACWS's leadership by thoroughly reviewing and updating 24 key Board policies. Notably, the Committee revamped the Board Recruitment process with an expanded public director campaign and introduced a comprehensive skills matrix to ensure a diverse and capable Board.

Looking ahead, the Committee is committed to maintaining this momentum by continuing to refine Board policies and enhancing the orientation experience for new members, setting them up for success from day one.

### Members of the Board Governance Committee 2024 - 2025:

- Jennifer Kwan,  
Committee Chair
- Rebecca Wells
- Leslie Allen
- Jessica Chapman
- Beba Svigir
- Christine Moore

## Social, Legal Issues and Ethics Committee: Guiding Justice, Integrity and Equity

During the 2024-2025 term, the Social, Legal Issues and Ethics (SLE) Committee had ongoing discussions on various social, legal and ethical issues with potential impacts on ACWS and its members, including the 2025 federal election, the impacts of the updated childcare policies and associated costs of childcare on our members and the survivors they support, and how to support ACWS' members with shelters that do not receive government funding.

In summer 2024, ACWS, with the support of the SLE Committee, published a position statement on the Government of Alberta's Proposed Policies on Transgender Youth, Gender-Affirming Care and Sexuality Education in Schools. The Committee emphasized the importance of updating the Lift Her Up campaign to be used in current and upcoming elections, supporting ACWS staff on the development of a Lift Her Up curriculum for municipal governments, which will launch in fall of 2025.

As part of the Committee's 2025-2026 workplan, the Committee will be reviewing the Government of Alberta's 10 Year Strategy to End Gender-Based Violence to identify key areas related to the Committee's work and shape future actions.

### Members of the Social, Legal Issues and Ethics Committee 2024-2025:

- Nancy Flatters - Chair
- Jessica Chapman
- Janice Willier
- Rosa Bruno
- Sadaf Raja
- Wilda Listener







## Finance, Audit and Risk Management (FARM) Committee: Building Financial Strength and Resilience

Over the past year, the FARM Committee has made meaningful progress in advancing financial stability, governance best practices, and organizational resilience. A major accomplishment was the careful review and refinement of ACWS's investment strategies. Working closely with leadership and financial experts, the Committee successfully launched a new investment through the Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF), which not only strengthens our long-term financial sustainability but also aligns with our values and expands our visibility within the philanthropic and non-profit sectors.

In addition to these financial achievements, the Committee has prioritized fostering inclusion by inviting board members from other committees to participate in FARM discussions. This intentional broadening of perspectives has enriched decision-making and promoted a culture of shared responsibility around financial oversight and risk management. The Committee also conducted a comprehensive review of internal organizational risks, assessing vulnerabilities and identifying areas for improvement in financial processes and operational safeguards. This proactive

approach provides a strong foundation for formalizing a more robust risk management framework in the year ahead.

The FARM Committee welcomed new members this year, bringing fresh expertise and perspectives to its work. The fiscal year concluded with a surplus of \$205,537, with total revenues of \$2,700,921 and expenditures of \$2,495,384, maintaining strong internal controls and clean audit outcomes.

Looking forward, the Committee is committed to deepening its impact by continuing to expand inclusive participation across the board, enhancing risk management processes, and realigning its workplan to better align with ACWS's fiscal year and strategic planning cycle. These efforts will help improve clarity, efficiency, and accountability throughout the year.

### Members of the FARM Committee 2024-2025:

- Keaton Harris - Board Treasurer and FARM Committee Chair
- Pamela Wick
- Jerri Taylor
- Michele Taylor
- Wilda Listener
- Jill Young

# Strength in Numbers: Creating Safer Communities Across Alberta – Together.

Shelters do more than respond to violence—they work to prevent it. We know that as a collective, our voices are more powerful. By working together, we amplify the call for stronger policies, increased funding, and greater recognition of the critical role shelters play in creating safer, healthier communities across Alberta.

## ACWS Member Impact Across Alberta

ACWS was founded over 40 years ago on the principle that together, we are stronger. Our members continue to prove that principle every day. We are proud of the impactful work of our collective that includes 41 Members operating over 50 Shelters, supporting communities province-wide.

### ACWS Members:

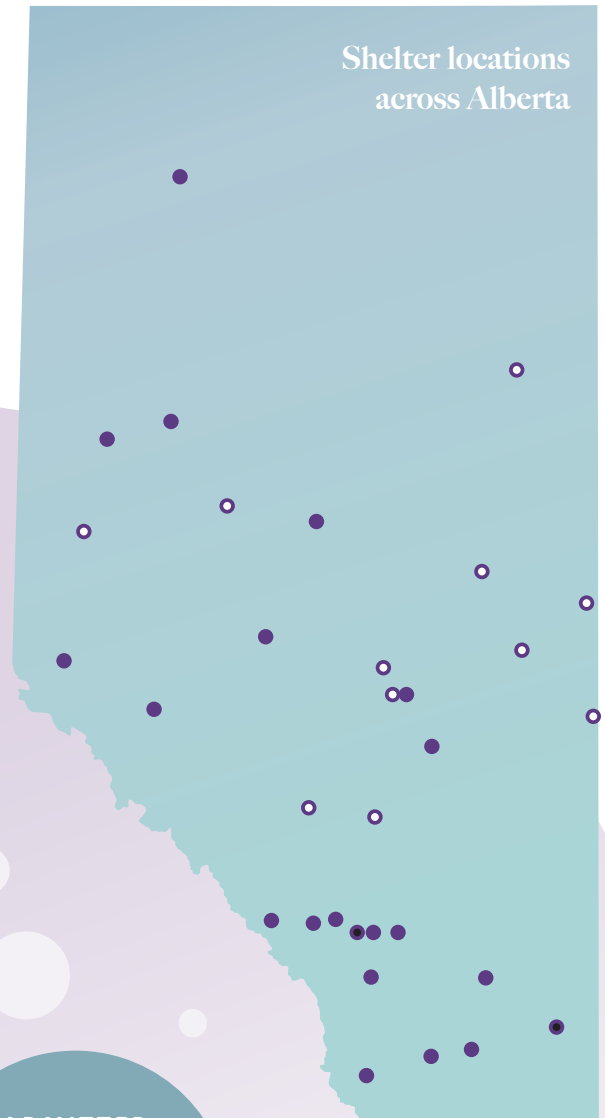
ANSWERED  
**50,000+**  
Calls for Help

PROVIDED  
**20,000+**  
Referrals of Support

SERVED  
**14,000+**  
Individuals across Alberta

ADMITTED  
**8,000+**  
Survivors & Children  
for In-Shelter Programs

Shelter locations  
across Alberta



- Emergency Shelter
- Emergency and Second-Stage



## Programs with Purpose

### Safe at Home

**ACWS Member:** Rowan House Society

**Location:** Foothills County, Vulcan Country and MD Willow Creek.

The Safe at Home program offers a unique, preventative approach to addressing domestic violence by working with individuals who are causing harm and are ready to take accountability. The program includes supportive group sessions, case planning, and accountability plans, helping participants actively work toward change. As part of its “cool-down” strategy, Safe at Home also provides short-term hotel stays (2-5 nights), allowing individuals to voluntarily remove themselves from unsafe situations. At times the RCMP may encourage individuals causing harm to use this service. In recognition of its innovative approach, the program was named a 2025 Purple Ribbon Awards Honoree for Most Innovative Service.

### Building Strength in Shelter

**ACWS Member:** Grande Prairie Women’s Residence Association - Odyssey House

**Location:** Grande Prairie

Strength arrived at the emergency shelter with dependent children under the age of 10. Strength was fleeing abuse and was recently evicted due to financial strains. Strength spent her days in the communal dining area home-schooling her 4 children and showing a lot of devotion to their education. Strength was able to quickly build rapport with staff and other residents of the shelter and friendships were built and maintained. Strength worked on her programming goals each day with staff such as: housing, financial stability, community support, and social networks. Strength was referred to community agencies such as but not limited to: the Grande Spirit Foundation, Kiwewin program, Alberta Supports, and Center Point. Strength went to multiple viewings for housing which did not always go as planned or fell through, but this did not discourage strength away from continuously staying motivated. Strength was approved for funding, and subsidy and was able to locate a rental and sign a lease for August 1st, 2024. Strength received a lot of support through the community in Grande Prairie to help



with basic household items as well as Client Support Manager also gave Mission Thrift gift cards throughout utilized partnership. Strength continues to speak on her relationships built within the shelter from previous clients that now will be informal support out in the community. Strength received her keys for her new rental on July 31st, 2024, and started to move her belongings.

### On-Site Nurse Program

**ACWS Member:** Edmonton Women’s Shelter Ltd. – WIN House

**Location:** Edmonton

Through a partnership with StreetWorks, WIN House delivers vital health care directly to residents via its On-Site Nurse Program. Available five days a week across all three shelter locations, the program provides private appointments and offers immediate and follow-up medical care, health education, and resources to residents. This approach ensures survivors can access trusted, trauma-informed health services in a safe and familiar environment, without the barriers of transportation or navigating complex health systems. Over the past year, WIN House’s dedicated on-site nurse conducted 933 face-to-face encounters, addressing urgent health needs and offering compassionate support that promotes healing and wellbeing.

## SAGE Safe House Client Tells Story

**ACWS Member:** SAGE Seniors Association

**Location:** Edmonton

In a video produced by the Government of Alberta, a client from Sage's Safe House courageously shares her personal experience of elder abuse to help reduce stigma and raise awareness. Georgina's story reminds us that elder abuse can happen even in the best of families. But there is hope and help available, and all Albertans play a vital role in recognizing signs of abuse and taking action to prevent it. Through Georgina bravely sharing her story in this video, she took a big step in reducing the stigma of elder abuse and seniors seeking help.

## Child and Youth Therapy Program

**ACWS Member:** The Brenda Strafford Foundation Ltd., Heart Home Network

**Location:** Calgary

Our Child and Youth therapy program provides one-on-one and family-based counselling for children and youth aged 3 to 17. The goal is to build emotional resilience, communication skills, positive coping strategies, healthy beliefs, and self-esteem. Children and youth participate in a set of ten therapeutic sessions that incorporate sand play, art, creative expression, talk therapy, and behavior support. Progress is reviewed at the end of each cycle, and additional sessions are offered as needed.

As children move through the program, they engage in age-specific therapeutic spaces designed to support their development. For example, the playroom supports children aged 3 to 9 through play-based activities that introduce foundational themes such as relationships, attachment, family changes, trauma, and safety planning. As they progress, children build on these foundations in other spaces and activities tailored to their evolving needs.

This program also includes family engagement through sessions and parenting support programs such as Circle of Security Parenting and ATTACH, ensuring a holistic, child-centered, and family-centered approach.



## Breaking New Ground: Facilities & Shelter Expansions

### Shelter Expansion in Rural Alberta

**ACWS Member:** Stepping Stones Crisis Society

**Location:** Cold Lake

This year, Stepping Stones Crisis Society took a major step forward in transforming services for women and children experiencing domestic violence in rural Alberta. The organization moved into the final planning phase for a new 50,000 sq. ft. trauma-informed shelter and will increase its capacity from 24 to 63 beds. Designed in partnership with Cold Lake First Nations and Indigenous Elders, the new space will offer expanded emergency housing, culturally responsive care, and wraparound programming. The organization also launched innovative new supports like *Wholesome Beginnings*, a community kitchen initiative, and *Circle of Care*, a wellness program for Indigenous women and children.





### New Accessible Apartments

**ACWS Member:** Discovery House Family Violence Prevention Society

**Location:** Calgary

On July 22, 2024, Discovery House unveiled a newly renovated, fully accessible three-bedroom apartment within its 19-unit transition shelter. Designed with widened doorways, a roll-in shower, and a barrier-free kitchen, this space addresses critical accessibility needs for women with disabilities, who face increased risks of intimate partner violence and often lack adequate support in shelters. This new apartment marks a vital step toward inclusive, trauma-informed care for all survivors.

### Bakhita House Opens to Support Victims of Human Trafficking

**ACWS Member:** Catholic Social Services

**Location:** Edmonton

On April 1, Catholic Social Services proudly opened Bakhita House, a dedicated shelter for victims of human trafficking with capacity for 12 individuals. Named after St. Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of trafficking survivors, the house provides specialized care and a safe refuge for those escaping exploitation.

## Building Legacies: Anniversary Celebrations & Staff Milestones

### MRWSA Celebrates 35 Incredible Years

**ACWS Member:** Mountain Rose Women's Shelter Association

**Location:** Rocky Mountain House

As the shelter celebrates 35 years of service, Cindy Easton, Executive Director of MRWSA, reflects on the power of community: "I believe, as leaders, we can only be successful if we have the 'right' people walking beside us—staff, board, and community partners. Mother Teresa said, 'I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.' It's this spirit of collaboration and courage that drives our work forward. I am deeply grateful to ACWS and all those who support shelters like ours—your impact is profound, even if unseen."

### Celebrating Rita Ng

**ACWS Member:** BSF Heart Home Network

**Location:** Calgary

Our team at HHN is excited to highlight the contributions and achievement of our longest serving staff member, Rita Ng. For twenty-three years Rita has acted as an unassuming source of knowledge, empathy and integrity. In 2023 Rita graciously stepped in to support the family counselling team by acting as a clinical supervisor. Within that role Rita provided encouragement, guidance and direction to her colleagues in addition to juggling the demands of a caseload. Although she stepped out of that role, Rita has continued to share her expertise with fellow team members, and we were excited to see her recently promoted to the role of team leader. Rita is a natural peer mentor and freely shares her knowledge, skillset and resources with her peers, practicum students and clients. Rita's calm, steady approach helps to ground those she serves, and her years of experience make her uniquely qualified to provide intentional, trauma informed care to high acuity clients accessing services.



## Mandela's House Turns 1!

**ACWS Member:** Ruth's House Society

**Location:** Calgary

Mandela House proudly marks its first year of service, having supported over 110 men in Calgary through programs focused on rehabilitation, education, and community reintegration. Operating without formal funding, Mandela House thrives thanks to the generosity of community supporters and donors. Despite challenges, the program continues to equip men with the tools to build healthy relationships and successfully reintegrate into society.

## Laura Bakken's Milestone Year

**ACWS Member:** True North

**Location:** Strathmore

This year, Laura celebrated an incredible milestone: 30 years of dedicated service with True North! Over the past three decades, she has been a steadfast advocate for survivors of domestic violence, bringing compassion, strength, and unwavering commitment to everything she does. Laura is not only an exceptional colleague but also a deeply respected leader whose impact can be felt throughout the organization. Her wisdom, empathy, and dedication have helped shape how True North supports survivors and fosters safer communities.



# Ending Domestic Violence—Together. Thank You to Our Supporters

## Donor Names

Adil Amin  
Aileen Giesbrecht  
Akbar and Mehr Keshwani  
Albert John Schooten  
Alda Grundy  
Alexandra Zabjek  
Alison Oakley-Edgelow  
Amandeep Bhalla  
Andrea Murty  
Angela How  
Angela Khodorkovski  
Anilkumar Lakhiya  
Augusto Ribeiro  
Barbara Byers  
Barret Weber  
Bethlehem Strom  
Bob Johnson  
Bonnie Donily  
Brian Knight  
Caitlyn McDonald  
Candace Johnson  
Carissa Halton  
Carmen Wuensch  
Carol Allen  
Carol Grierson  
Catherine Roy  
Chelsea Campbell  
Chris Gallaway  
Colin Smith  
Corrie Fortner  
Craig Wallace  
Cynthia Lazarenko  
Daniel Dorsey  
Darryl Abrams  
David Verveda  
Deb Huber  
Deloris Bonnett  
Delton Campbell  
Dennis Ward  
Diana Pepin  
Diane Dunn

Dianne Linden  
Don Elder  
Ed Thumath  
Elena Russell  
Elisabeth Mueller  
Elizabeth Acheson  
Elizabeth Bamford  
Ellen Gordon  
Ellen C. Nygaard  
Emily Quinn  
Emily Westwood  
Evelyne Bucumi  
Fiona Bamforth  
Gary and Laurie Mitchell  
Gayle Chidlaw  
Glenna Russell  
Greg Anderson  
Hannu Virtanen  
Heather Bessey  
Holly Heck  
Hubert Kammerer  
Iris Evans  
Isabella Pierce  
Jane Karstaedt  
Jane Miller  
Janeen Tinker  
Janelle Macdonald  
Janice Baker  
Janice Willier  
Janice R. Reimer  
Janis Honey  
Jennifer Bertrand  
Jennifer Nesvold  
Jesse Harlton  
Jessica Chapman  
Jessica Grelecka  
Jesus Perez  
Joanne Sutherland  
Joe Demko  
John Acheson  
John Boonstra  
Jonathan Lesyk

Kaitlin Szacki  
Karen Wilk  
Katherine Weaver  
Kenneth Wastle  
Kerry Nield  
Kevin Boyd  
Kevin Nelson  
Larry Spaidal  
Laurie Adam  
Leanne Alfaro  
Leo Orellana-Molina  
Lila Gould  
Liz Hughes  
Liz McBride-Finch  
Lorena Sutherland  
Louise Croome  
Lynn and Tom Spiller  
M. Kathy Williams  
Mallory Deyne  
Mandy Melnyk  
Marcie Smigorowsky  
Marg Southern  
Maria Dunn  
Marlene Holst-Burke  
Martin Krezlewicz  
Mary On  
Mary Tychkowsky  
Mary and Donald Snyder  
Maureen Krauss  
Maureen Werlin  
Maya Ramsahoye  
Moirra Walker  
Monty Grewal  
Nancy Arlinghaus  
Naveen Sharma  
Neil Armstrong  
Neil Chymko  
Netta Phillet  
Nicole Kraychy  
Nikky McLean  
Pam Swinton  
Pat Garrett

Patricia Araneta  
Patricia Bencz-Stewart  
Patricia Bullock  
Pauline and Martin Ridge  
Peter Sankoff  
Petra Hoosein  
Rajan Dhami  
Rianne Faucher  
Richard Cloutier  
Robert Goguen  
Rose-Marie McCarthy  
Roxann Klepper  
Roxanne McLean  
Russell Meyer  
Ryan Michael Mercado  
Rylee McCloskey  
Sandra Riddell  
Shelley Erickson  
Shelly Chamaschuk  
Sherri Symington  
Silke Gilgen  
Simren Kailey  
Siobhan Vipond  
Sophia Dizon  
Stephen Mandel  
Stephen Yeung  
Susan Grieshaber-Otto  
Susan Hagg  
Susanne Letawsky  
Tammy Hawkins  
Tannis Jackson  
Teresa Woytkiw  
Thomas Swanson  
Tim Downey  
Tim Spelliscy  
Tracy Brown  
Tracy McCloskey  
Varun Kathpal  
Winifred Blades  
Zeny Singh  
Zoya Faisal



# Thank You to Our Supporters

## Organizations

Alberta Blue Cross  
 Alberta Counsel  
 Alberta Construction Safety Association (ACSA)  
 Associated Engineering Alberta Ltd.  
 Bent Stick Brewing Co. Inc.  
 BrokerLink Inc.  
 Brown Law Group  
 Brownlee LLP  
 Calgary Foundation - Rickbeil Family Fund  
 Canadian National Railway Company (CN)  
 Connect Charter School Society  
 Edmonton and District Labour Council  
 Edmonton Community Foundation - Crescent Hill Fund,  
 Local 79 United Nurses of Alberta Endowment Fund,  
 Malcolmson Family Fund, Ralph & Gay Young Family  
 Fund, Selena, George & Alana DeMeo Family Fund,  
 Sharon & Douglas Barbour Fund  
 Edmonton Police Service  
 Fortis Alberta

Garneau Block Corporation  
 Home Trust  
 HSAA: Health Sciences Association of Alberta  
 Jonathon Westcott Professional Association  
 The KPMG Foundation  
 Legacy Mortgage Group  
 Metrix Group LLP Chartered  
 Professional Accountants  
 Novart Creative Studio  
 Ross McBain Charitable Gift Fund  
 Shopper's Foundation for Women's Health  
 Society of Vintage Characters  
 Local 32 United Nurses of Alberta  
 United Nurses of Alberta  
 United Way East Ontario  
 United Way of Calgary and Area  
 United Way of the Alberta Capital Region  
 Urban Granite Ltd.





## Full Members of ACWS 2024-2025

Brooks and District Women's Safe Shelter Society  
 Camrose Women's Shelter Society  
 Capella Centre Alberta  
 Catholic Social Services  
 Central Alberta Outreach Society  
 Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter Society  
 Chestermere Women's Crisis Society  
 Cochrane's Women's Emergency Shelter Society  
 Discovery House Family Violence Prevention Society  
 Edmonton Women's Shelter Ltd.  
 Fairview and District Women's Centre Association  
 Grande Cache Transition House Society  
 Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association  
 Hope Haven Society  
 Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation  
 Maskan Family Association  
 Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society  
 Mountain Rose Women's Shelter Association  
 Northern Haven Support Society  
 Northwest Alberta Resource Society  
 Peace River Regional Women's Shelter Society  
 Pincher Creek Women's Emergency Shelter Association  
 Radiance Family Society  
 Rowan House Society  
 Ruth's House Society  
 SPARK Foundation for Lloydminster  
 Sage Seniors Association  
 Stepping Stones Crisis Society  
 Stoney Tribal Administration  
 Strathcona Shelter Society Ltd.  
 Sucker Creek Women's Emergency Shelter  
 Taber Safe Haven Women's Shelter Society  
 The Brenda Strafford Foundation Ltd., Heart Home Network  
 True North  
 Unison Society  
 Waypoints Community Services Association  
 Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre Society  
 Wings of Providence Society Ltd.  
 YWCA of Banff  
 YWCA of Lethbridge & District  
 Yellowhead Emergency Shelter for Women Society



Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended March 31, 2025



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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, 2025, 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, 2025, 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 donations 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 donations revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the year ended March 31, 2025, current assets and net assets as at March 31, 2025. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2025 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.

*(continues)*

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (*continued*)

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

*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  
July 24, 2025

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS****Statement of Financial Position****As at March 31, 2025**

	2025	2024
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)	\$ 3,852,015	\$ 4,123,547
Casino restricted cash (Note 3)	130,551	128,662
Accounts receivable	60,320	99,668
Goods and services tax recoverable	9,311	7,060
Prepaid expenses	32,636	22,552
	<b>4,084,833</b>	4,381,489
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	<b>37,146</b>	84,863
	<b>\$ 4,121,979</b>	\$ 4,466,352
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 141,337	\$ 170,679
Accrued vacation payable	43,577	41,904
Deferred contributions - operating (Note 5)	761,034	1,274,018
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	37,195	3,635
	<b>983,143</b>	1,490,236
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Note 8)	<b>26,903</b>	69,720
	<b>1,010,046</b>	1,559,956
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted fund	<b>1,175,236</b>	998,990
Internally restricted (Note 9)	<b>1,926,453</b>	1,892,263
Invested in tangible capital asset	<b>10,244</b>	15,143
	<b>3,111,933</b>	2,906,396
	<b>\$ 4,121,979</b>	\$ 4,466,352

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD**

DocuSigned by:

Sandy Vander Ziel President, Director  
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 Keaton Harris Treasurer, Director  
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**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS****Statement of Revenues and Expenses****For The Year Ended March 31, 2025**

	2025	2024
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Grants ( <i>Schedule 1</i> )	\$ 1,834,148	\$ 2,455,157
Donations	318,979	303,440
Interest and other	277,245	251,885
Event registration	57,355	104,419
Membership fees	81,050	76,415
Sponsorships	11,000	54,000
Amortization - deferred capital contributions ( <i>Note 8</i> )	42,817	39,777
Training	32,765	29,330
Casino	45,562	8,567
	<b>2,700,921</b>	<b>3,322,990</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries, wages and benefits	1,307,637	1,369,126
Program expenses	872,726	1,412,285
Gifts and honorariums	72,783	193,596
Occupancy costs	49,303	4,804
Amortization	47,716	45,328
Office	36,855	29,679
Recruitment and training	26,093	40,405
Professional fees	25,293	21,843
Telephone and website	17,353	17,320
Annual general meeting	12,361	6,688
Minor office equipment	11,062	2,477
Interest and bank charges	9,867	9,241
Insurance	6,335	8,033
	<b>2,495,384</b>	<b>3,160,825</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>205,537</b>	<b>162,165</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	(1,326)
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 205,537</b>	<b>\$ 160,839</b>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS****Statement of Changes in Net Assets****For the Year Ended March 31, 2025**

	Unrestricted Fund	Internally Restricted	Invested in Tangible Capital Asset	2025	2024
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 998,990	\$ 1,892,263	\$ 15,143	<b>\$ 2,906,396</b>	\$ 2,745,557
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	205,537	-	-	<b>205,537</b>	160,839
Internal reserve transfers (Note 9)	(34,190)	34,190	-	-	-
Amortization of tangible capital assets	47,716	-	(47,716)	-	-
Amortization of deferred capital contribution (Note 8)	(42,817)	-	42,817	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 1,175,236</b>	<b>\$ 1,926,453</b>	<b>\$ 10,244</b>	<b>\$ 3,111,933</b>	<b>\$ 2,906,396</b>



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS****Statement of Cash Flows****For The Year Ended March 31, 2025**

	2025	2024
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 205,537	\$ 160,839
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization	47,716	45,328
Amortization – deferred capital contributions	(42,817)	(39,777)
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	1,326
	<b>210,436</b>	167,716
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	39,348	(43,662)
GST receivable	(2,251)	843
Prepaid expenses	(10,084)	107,938
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(29,341)	47,243
Accrued vacation payable	1,673	12,137
Deferred contributions – operating	(512,984)	5,268
Deferred revenue	33,560	(69,940)
	<b>(480,079)</b>	59,827
	<b>(269,643)</b>	227,543
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITY</b>		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	-	(34,506)
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITY</b>		
Deferred capital contribution	-	17,611
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>(269,643)</b>	210,648
Cash and cash equivalents – beginning of year	<b>4,252,209</b>	4,041,561
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 3,982,566</b>	\$ 4,252,209
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS CONSIST OF:</b>		
Cash	\$ 3,852,015	\$ 4,123,547
Casino restricted cash	<b>130,551</b>	128,662
	<b>\$ 3,982,566</b>	\$ 4,252,209

## ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

### Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2025

#### 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 notfor-profit organizations (ASNPO).

##### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash held with Canadian financial institutions.

Cash equivalents consist of temporary and short term investments that are readily convertible to cash with maturities at the date of purchase of less than ninety days.

##### 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 and services 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)

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN’S SHELTERS**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**

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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	5 years	straight-line method
Computer equipment and software	3 years	straight-line method
Leasehold improvements	5 years	straight-line method
Website	5 years	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)*



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**
**Notes to Financial Statements**
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**
**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** *(continued)*
Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for notfor-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:

	2025	2024
Operating cash	\$ 3,804,964	\$ 4,077,864
Money market funds	47,051	45,683
	<b>\$ 3,852,015</b>	<b>\$ 4,123,547</b>

**3. CASINO RESTRICTED CASH**

Funds gained from a Casino event are placed in a separate bank account. These funds, which total \$130,551 (2024 - \$128,662) 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/training for volunteers as well as website development and maintenance.

**4. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS**

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2025 Net book value	2024 Net book value
Computer equipment and software	\$ 58,157	\$ 56,993	<b>\$ 1,164</b>	\$ 4,528
Leasehold improvements	12,994	5,198	<b>7,796</b>	10,395
Website	187,908	170,268	<b>17,640</b>	55,222
Office equipment	57,773	47,227	<b>10,546</b>	14,718
	<b>\$ 316,832</b>	<b>\$ 279,686</b>	<b>\$ 37,146</b>	<b>\$ 84,863</b>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS****Notes to Financial Statements****Year Ended March 31, 2025****5. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - OPERATING**

	<b>2024</b>	Funds received	Revenue recognized	<b>2025</b>
ACWS Member Contribution Training Fund	\$ 144,992	\$ 9,500	\$ (110)	<b>\$ 154,382</b>
Anonymous Donor	-	50,00	(30,300)	<b>19,700</b>
Calgary Fund grant	20,000	20,000	(20,000)	<b>20,000</b>
Canada Alberta Summer Jobs	-	5,895	(5,895)	-
Casino restricted funds	128,724	47,659	(45,563)	<b>130,820</b>
CDR CRCS No survivor turned away	100,041	56,717	(156,758)	-
DIF Grant	15,000	-	(15,000)	-
Family Business Connect - DV and its impact	185,624	-	-	<b>185,624</b>
GOA, CSS	-	995,420	(995,420)	-
GOA, Centering Relationships to End Violence	100,000	-	(80,843)	<b>19,157</b>
GOA, Immigration & Multiculturalism	-	40,000	(40,000)	-
GOA, Labour - DV and your WP, supporting smaller centres	60,448	-	(60,448)	-
GOA, Build Capacity to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault and Gender Based Violence	86,724	-	(39,386)	<b>47,338</b>
GOA, NAP - Innovations conference	50,000	-	(50,000)	-
GOA, NAP - Mentoring and Coaching	129,255	8,889	(129,255)	<b>8,889</b>
GOA, NAP - Transportation	165,000	-	(109,475)	<b>55,525</b>
GOC Justice & AG - Training Alberta Lawyers	-	24,147	(24,147)	-
GOC, Justice - VCAW	-	8,500	(8,500)	-
IODE - Children's Curriculum	23,689	-	(4,090)	<b>19,599</b>
Servus ACWS Partnership	27,519	-	(27,519)	-
Shoppers Drug Mart - Love You Fund	37,002	100,000	(37,002)	<b>100,000</b>
Total deferred contribution	\$ 1,274,018	\$ 1,366,727	\$ (1,879,711)	<b>\$ 761,034</b>

Please see note 6 for definition of acronyms used above.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**
**Notes to Financial Statements**
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**
**6. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - OPERATING ACRONYMS**

ACWS – Alberta Council of Women's Shelters  
 AFL – Alberta Federation of Labour  
 COE – City of Edmonton  
 CWF – Canadian Women's Foundation  
 CSS – Community and Social Services  
 DV – Domestic Violence  
 DIF – Dfinity Insurance Foundation  
 GOA – Government of Alberta  
 GOC – Government of Canada  
 IODE – Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire  
 WaGE – Women and Gender Equality  
 WSC – Women's Shelters Canada

**7. DEFERRED REVENUE**

	2024	Funds received	Revenue recognized	2025
<u>Unearned revenue</u>				
Prepaid membership fees	\$ 3,000	\$ 32,500	\$ (3,000)	\$ 32,500
Training fees and event sponsoprships/donations received in advance	635	4,060	-	4,695
	\$ 3.635	\$ 36,560	\$ (3,000)	\$ 37,195

**8. 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:

	2025	2024
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 69,720	\$ 91,886
Add:		
Contributions received	-	17,611
Less:		
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(42,817)	(39,777)
Balance, End of Year	\$ 26,903	\$ 69,720



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**
**Notes to Financial Statements**
**Year Ended March 31, 2025**
**9. 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.

	2025	2024
Stabilization reserve		
The Organization has established a stabilization reserve to hold four months of operating expenses.	\$ 1,379,693	\$ 1,379,693
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.	40,000	40,000
Moving/Renovation reserve		
The Organization has established a reserve for moving and renovation expenditures.	40,100	35,000
Social Enterprise fund		
The Organization has established a fund to ensure program stabilization and expansion.	363,467	334,377
	\$ 1,926,453	\$ 1,892,263

**10. 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, 2025.

**(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.

**11. COMPARATIVE FIGURES**

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

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS****Grants Schedule (Recognized Revenue)****For the Year Ended March 31, 2025****(Schedule 1)**

	2025	2024
<b>Anonymous Donor</b>	<b>\$ 30,300</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Canada Alberta Job Grant</b>	<b>5,895</b>	<b>1,175</b>
<b>Canadian Red Cross Society</b>	<b>156,758</b>	<b>32,298</b>
<b>Canadian Women's Foundation</b>		
Covid Relief	-	4,283
<b>COE - Precarious Immigration Status</b>	-	126,837
<b>Calgary Foundation</b>	<b>20,000</b>	-
<b>Definity Foundation</b>	<b>15,000</b>	-
<b>Edmonton Police foundation</b>	-	22,178
<b>GOA - ACWS CIP</b>	-	40,000
<b>GOA - ACWS SA</b>	<b>39,386</b>	<b>13,276</b>
<b>GOA - AGLC</b>	-	8,567
<b>GOA - Community &amp; Social Services</b>		
Operating Grant	<b>995,420</b>	<b>995,420</b>
<b>GOA - Immigration &amp; multiculturalism</b>	<b>40,000</b>	-
<b>GOA - Jobs, Economy &amp; Innovation</b>	<b>60,448</b>	-
<b>GOA - National Action Plan Crev</b>	<b>80,843</b>	-
<b>GOA - National Action Plan</b>	<b>288,730</b>	-
<b>GOC - Jobs, Economy &amp; Innovation</b>	-	25,241
<b>GOC - Justice &amp; AG</b>	<b>24,147</b>	<b>112,246</b>
<b>GOC - Justice VCAW</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>
<b>GOC - Women &amp; Gender Equality</b>		
Building Collective Capacity	-	183,455
Centring Relationships	-	354,670
Enhancing Women's Safety	-	170,526
<b>IODE - Child. Curr</b>	<b>4,090</b>	<b>3,075</b>
<b>Member Contribution Fund</b>	<b>110</b>	-
<b>Rogers Foundation via WSC</b>	-	189,324
<b>Servus</b>	<b>27,519</b>	-
<b>Shoppers Love You Fund</b>	<b>37,002</b>	<b>62,998</b>
<b>Women's Shelter Canada - Response and Recovery</b>	-	128,266
	<b>1,834,148</b>	<b>2,481,335</b>
Grant funding utilized for capital purchases (Note 8)	-	(17,611)
Interest income and Raffle Pull Tickets	-	(8,567)
	<b>\$ 1,834,148</b>	<b>\$ 2,455,157</b>

