



MOVING FORWARD!
PLANNING FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

ALBERTA ON-RESERVE SHELTERS UNITED

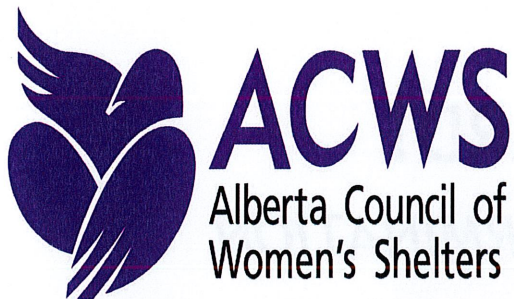
FINAL REPORT

PREPARED FOR THE

ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

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Table of Contents

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY IV
- 1. INTRODUCTION 1
 - 1.1. REPORT RATIONALE 2
- 2. ON-RESERVE SHELTER FUNDING IN CANADA 3
- 3. OUTLINING THE FVPP SHELTER FUNDING METHODOLOGY 8
 - FUNDING FORMULA CALCULATIONS 10
 - 3.1. APPLYING THE INAC FUNDING METHODOLOGY TO ALBERTA SHELTERS 16
 - 3.2. EXAMINING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE METHODOLOGY BY INAC 17
- 4. REVIEW OF RECENT SHELTER IMPACTS 18
 - 4.1. INAC 2010 REVIEW: IMPACTS OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING 19
 - 4.2. ASSESSING INAC’S ABILITY TO IMPACT DISPARITY 19
 - 4.3. EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF THE 2006 NEW FUNDING METHODOLOGY REPORT 20
- 5. EXAMINING ABORIGINAL WOMEN’S VIOLENCE DATA AND POLICY IN CANADA 22
- 6. TAKING ACTION: SELF-DETERMINATION 24
 - 6.1. CURRENT STATE OF MINIMAL CONTROL 24
 - 6.2. ALBERTA ON-RESERVE SHELTERS UNITED 25
- 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 26
 - 7.1. CONCLUSIONS 26
 - 7.2. RECOMMENDATIONS 27

APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A: EMAIL FROM GRANT BRITTON A-1
- APPENDIX B: ASSEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS: 29-03-2010-#02R B-1
- APPENDIX C: IMPLEMENTATION STATUS UPDATE REPORT TO THE AUDIT AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE, JUNE 27, 2008 C-1
- APPENDIX D: EMAIL FROM JIM SISSON: MARCH 19, 2010 D-1
- APPENDIX E: ARRANGEMENT FOR THE FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES ... E-1

Executive Summary

*“Aboriginal women and their children suffer tremendously as victims in contemporary Canadian society. They are the victims of racism, of sexism and of unconscionable levels of domestic violence. The justice system has done little to protect them from any of these assaults.”*¹ Aboriginal women are also three times more likely to be victims of spousal violence than non-Aboriginal women, and spousal homicide rates are almost eight times higher for Aboriginal women than for non-Aboriginal women.² Studies, such as *Jumping Through the Hoops* (2009), relate that crime and victimization have become accepted everyday realities in some Aboriginal communities. While non-Aboriginal women report a decline in the more severe forms of violence (43% in 1999 to 37% in 2004), the rate for Aboriginal women has remained steady at 54%.

It is well known that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) provides less funding to On-Reserve Shelters than what their provincial counterparts receive. The Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters (ACWS), incorporated in 1983, investigated whether parity existed between On-Reserve and provincially funded shelters in 2005. At this time, the five existing On-Reserve Shelters received a total of \$1.05 million less than they would have received as provincially funded shelters. This report examined 2010-11 provincial and INAC funding levels for shelters and, while the estimates made for provincial shelters may be somewhat inflated, an obvious gap still exists. This report estimated that the six currently existing Alberta On-Reserve Shelters were under-funded by \$2.2 million in 2010-11, when compared to provincial shelter funding levels.

The last evaluation completed by INAC for the Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) was in 2005. While a Review was completed in 2010, this was not an evaluation. INAC has not met the Treasury Board mandate for evaluations of programs every five-years. INAC further, according to the 2010 Review, has failed to address and/or adequately address the 2005 FVPP evaluation conclusions.

These inadequacies have left On-Reserve Shelters in a compromising position where they are: 1) unable to function as autonomous institutions by receiving funding direct from INAC, 2) unstable and insufficiently funded; and 3) threatened in their ability to function as a sustainable institution that can provide adequate and sufficient services to women and children fleeing violence.

¹ Manitoba Government. Report of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba. The Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission. November 1999.

<http://www.ajic.mb.ca/volume1/chapter13.html>

² Violence Against Aboriginal Women, Statistics Canada, 2006