



**Annual Report 2014-2015**

## Table of Contents

<b>About ACWS</b> .....	<b>1</b>
ACWS Vision.....	1
ACWS Mission.....	1
ACWS Board (2014-2015).....	1
ACWS Staff.....	1
<b>Valued Supporters</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Leadership Messages</b> .....	<b>3</b>
ACWS Board President – Brenda Brochu.....	3
ACWS Executive Director – Jan Reimer.....	7
<b>Board Committee Report</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Board Governance Committee – Brenda Rebman.....	10
<b>Audited Financial Statements</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Includes: Auditor’s Report Statement of Financial Position Statement of Changes in Net Assets Statement of Operations Statement of Cash Flow Notes to the Financial Statements Grant Schedule.....	11

"I am looking forward to getting my own place, but I really appreciate the staff here and especially the elders. For the first time in my life I feel like I will be ok living away from my husband and raising my kids in a good way. I feel safe here". **Pincher Creek**

"It is helpful to talk to staff, hear others and the things they go through..." **High River**

Unless otherwise referenced, quotations in this annual report are from the 2014 Alberta Annual Shelter Data Count and are from survivors or staff from member shelters.

## **About ACWS**

### **ACWS Vision**

We believe in a world free from violence and abuse.

### **ACWS Mission**

To support our members and work together to end domestic violence and abuse.

### **ACWS Board (2014-2015)**

Brenda Brochu, President  
Brenda Rebman, Vice President  
Jasmin Greavett, Secretary  
Patricia Garrett, Treasurer

#### *Directors:*

Gaye Warthe  
Amanda C. Labonte  
Sherrie Botten  
Darlene Lightning-Mattson  
Dennis Callihoo

#### *Public Directors:*

Brian Simpson  
Lewis Cardinal  
Kelly-Ann Fenney  
Pamela Wicks

### **ACWS Staff**

Jan Reimer, Executive Director  
Carolyn Goard, Director of Member Programs & Services  
Ken Seto, Finance and Information Administrator  
Christie Lavan, Communications & Partnerships Advisor  
Jennifer Ness, Office Administrator  
Amy Mercure, Evaluation & Research Specialist  
Cat Van Wielingen, Evaluation & Research Specialist  
Nicol Sinclair, Administrative Assistant

## Valued Major Supporters

C. Allen  
CN  
Brenda Strafford Foundation  
Devon Canada  
Donna Hammerlindl  
Government of Alberta – Community Incentive Program  
Government of Alberta – Prevention of Family Violence & Bullying  
Government of Alberta – Human Services  
Mr. Patrick McDonald  
The Der/Tse Relation Association of Alberta  
Robert William Board Professional Corporation  
Butler Family Foundation  
KIN Canada Foundation  
Edmonton Community Foundation  
HB Group Insurance Management Ltd.  
Elizabeth Hughes McKnight  
Dianne and Irv Kipness Foundation  
Nicholas Potvin  
Randi Baergen  
Bon Ton Bakery  
Royal Alexandra Hospital Employee's Charitable Donations Fund  
Setarip Computers  
Status of Women Canada  
Stephen Mandel  
Joanne and Doug Goss  
Integrated Management and Reality

Thank you for giving me a safe place to be with my kids. I know now what I need to do. Before I rushed to get out of shelter but then I fell back into old habits. I'm going to take my time and use your help to make a better plan this time."

**Edmonton**

"You treated me better than I've been treated my whole life." **Slave Lake**

## Leadership Messages

### ACWS Board President – Brenda Brochu

#### Relations with our Aboriginal Members

Listening to and speaking with our aboriginal members was a very high priority for me during the past year.

There is now a huge gap in funding between the on-reserve and off-reserve shelters, made worse by the fact that funding for the ACWS project Walking the Path Together has expired. Walking the Path Together was a program which enabled on-reserve shelters to support families leaving abuse by focusing on the needs of children who have witnessed family violence. As you may know, the on-reserve shelters, unlike the off-reserve shelters, do not receive government funding for either child support or outreach, so Walking the Path Together was a very important program for our on-reserve sisters.

Jan and I were invited to attend a meeting of on-reserve shelter representatives in High Prairie in late August, which we were pleased to do. Besides hearing about their frustration when they hear that other shelters will get funding for things they can only dream about, we heard very clearly that they want to be at the table when their issues are discussed with politicians. We were delighted to collaborate with four on-reserve members to meet with Alberta's Associate Minister of Aboriginal Affairs in November.

Thanks to a suggestion from board member Lewis Cardinal, we have approached the on-reserve shelters about developing a possible Memorandum of Understanding to address some of their concerns and strengthen the relationship between the on-reserve shelters and the rest of ACWS. An additional meeting was held on the Ermineskin First Nation on May 7 to continue this discussion.

I told you in my annual report last year that the board had formed an Ad Hoc Aboriginal Advisory Committee to guide the development of a statement of ACWS principles and values that would govern what ACWS does in relation to aboriginal people. Since that time, ACWS has made a major funding application to support a consultative process to develop such a statement.

The board also added a fourth goal the ACWS strategic plan: that ACWS facilitates connectedness and mutual support with and among member organizations. A key outcome would be that our on-reserve and off-reserve members would have strong relationships with each other and with ACWS.

Although the Awo Taan Healing Lodge is not an on-reserve shelter, we were deeply saddened when that shelter chose not to renew its membership in the spring of 2014. It appears that representatives of the Healing Lodge are open to meeting with us to discuss their concerns, possibly this fall. We miss them and would like them to come back to ACWS.

## **New Board Members**

We were pleased to fill three vacant board positions during the past year. Pamela Wicks of Calgary is our new member-at-large who does not represent any group of shelters. Dennis Callihoo, who sits on the Ermineskin Shelter board, came on as the board representative for an on-reserve shelter and Darlene Lightning-Mattson of the Sucker Creek shelter as the paid manager of an on-reserve shelter.

## **Strategic Plan Update**

As indicated earlier, the board reviewed and updated its strategic plan last September to put more focus on developing sustainable funding and on strengthening the relationship between our aboriginal and non-aboriginal members. During the past fiscal year, overall revenue for ACWS was down to about a third of what it was three years earlier. This was due largely to a drop in program grants. This winter, a special board committee was struck to set priorities for finding additional dollars.

## **Policy Review**

The board finished reviewing the entire policy manual this winter, a project that took more than a year and involved a lot of hard work. Many thanks to Toni Lashbrook for walking the board through the process and ensuring that board input was respected and reflected in the new policies.

## **Partnership Agreement with Alberta Association of Native Friendship Centres**

The board was pleased to sign a partnership agreement with the Alberta Association of Native Friendship Centres in November. This was designed to improve mutual understanding and communication as we work together to address the needs of the same clients.

## **Building Support for Women's and Senior's Shelters**

Board members and ACWS staff met with various politicians over the past year to brief them on the results of our Literature Review on Second Stage, update new ministers and critics about our positions statements and various research findings, as well as to communicate our issues and advocate for shelters and shelter clients.

Jan and I met with both Sandra Jansen, the former Associate Minister of Human Services, and Heather Klimchuk, who became Minister of Human Services after Jim Prentice was sworn in as Premier.

We also facilitated a meeting with David Dorward, the former Associate Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, with representatives of our on-reserve members. Three executive directors of on-reserve shelters—Janet Gladue, Delia Poucette and Darlene Lightning-Mattson—attended, and Sandra Ermineskin would have been there too if she hadn't got stuck in a snowstorm. Dennis Callihoo and I were there representing the ACWS board.

Board member Pat Garret joined Jan Reimer for meetings with Mike Percy, former Premier Prentice's Chief of Staff, and Jeff Johnson, former Minister of Seniors, whose portfolio included housing. The focus of these meetings was the urgent need for sustainable funding for second-stage shelters. These officials were provided with an analysis of the status of past government and ACWS recommendations on housing and women's shelters.

Jan and I also initiated contact with the parties that were then in opposition. We met in person with the NDP critic for Human Services, David Eggen. We also met by teleconference with Liberal leader David Swann. A meeting had been arranged with the Wildrose critic for Human Services, but she crossed the floor and joined the Progressive Conservative government shortly before the date of the meeting.

Both now-Premier Rachael Notley and David Swann raised questions about shelter funding in the Legislature during the past year.

We celebrated a number of successes with our members: a five percent increase in the per diem rate the province pays the on-reserve shelters for off-reserve clients; the announcement at our last AGM of a modest facility enhancement fund for provincially-contracted emergency shelters; and some rent supplement funding for women staying at the Sonshine second-stage shelter in Calgary and for women leaving emergency shelters in our two largest cities. Sixteen shelters gained additional funding as the province moved to increase the number of funded beds in the province, with 20 member organizations also receiving additional outreach positions. As well, provincially contracted shelters received an increase to support salaries and benefits in accordance with the shelter staffing model.

### **The Road Ahead**

The next few months will be critical in solidifying relationships within ACWS, especially in relation to our aboriginal members. With more than half the clients served by ACWS members identifying themselves as aboriginal, it is crucial that we listen carefully to what our on-reserve members are trying to tell us. With all of us working together, we will find our way and achieve much more than if we are divided.

We must also find a way to finance ACWS services more sustainably. This will not be easy at a time of economic downturn and possible future recession in Alberta.

We are hopeful of building a positive relationship with the new Government of Alberta and making life better for the thousands of women and children who look to us as a lifeline. This will mean looking past the three or four weeks that most women spend in an emergency shelter.

We know that it takes about two years for people to heal from a serious trauma like living in an abusive relationship. During that time they must have safety, emotional support and sufficient income to meet their basic needs and those of their children. They need at least one empathetic listener to hear their story of abuse with its full emotional impact. They also need time to rebuild their trust in human relationships and reintegrate into society.

A recent study across the Prairie Provinces called *The Healing Journey* by Linda DeRiviere showed that 70 per cent of abused women had not achieve their educational and occupational

goals approximately four years after leaving the relationship. Most still lived in poverty. We can and must do better.

Before concluding my report, I would like to thank Jasmin Greavett and Darlene Lightning-Mattson for their service to the board. I would also like to thank Jan Reimer and the staff of ACWS for their hard work and dedication.

“Our outreach worker was working with a client – going over health concerns and medication. The client had 4 seizures in a row, after consultation with worker and research, the worker informed her she can not be drinking on these meds. Our client broke out in tears, asked worker for a hug and said " You may have just saved my life, will you come to the Dr. with me?" Our worker will now go to the apt. with her and get her medication straightened out. **Grande Cache**

“I’m going back to him but now I know where to go and some day I will leave just not ready”  
**Standoff**





## ACWS Executive Director – Jan Reimer

*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way."*

Charles Dickens: *A Tale Of Two Cities* (1859)

What a tale of ups and downs we have had! The 2014-15 fiscal year began with great optimism. Oil prices were high. The Alberta budget announced that provincially contracted shelters would receive extra dollars for staff retention, 70 more funded beds, and 21 shelters received additional outreach workers. Increases were also provided to the fee for service contracts with the on-reserve shelters. A new \$20 million Family and Community Safety Fund was announced – and many of us burned the midnight oil to get our applications in! This was followed by modest funding for rent supplements for women leaving shelter in Alberta's two major cities.

At the same time, our provincial data was telling us that women were staying longer in shelter in large part due to the crunch women were experiencing due to a tight housing supply with rents that far exceeded their ability to pay. There were more and more incidents of women being turned away from shelters due to a lack of capacity (8,427) with shelters reporting more than 8,587 incidents of women being turned away for other reasons. The misfortune of not being able to shelter women who were asking to come into shelter has spread to more and more Alberta communities. Population growth far outpaced the services shelters are able to provide.

Federally, the RCMP released their report showing that the number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women was much higher than originally thought – with the highest number of Aboriginal female homicides occurring in our province (206)<sup>1</sup>. A major announcement followed in September, with the federal release of an "Action Plan", yet there was no action on funding for on-reserve shelters, who continue to struggle to provide service with contribution agreements that have not changed since 2007 – which in essence, given Alberta inflation rates, amounts to a 12% decrease in their purchasing power; compounded by the loss of the financial support we were able to provide over the last 5 years through the now completed Walking the Path Together project. This last year saw an increasing disparity between services provided on and off reserve for abused women and children. As noted in the province's Social Policy Framework, rising disparity diminishes social cohesion and challenges the idea that all Albertans have an equal opportunity to be successful. By the end of the fiscal year, oil prices had tanked; provincial budgets were being frozen or cut and the Community Safety Fund shrunk to \$4M without any projects announced before the election call.

Community conversations about violence against women were at an all-time high; fueled by the multiple domestic violence homicides in Edmonton, discussions about missing and murdered aboriginal women, the Jian Gimeshi and Ray Rice scandals (to name a few) and on a positive note, ACWS' Leading Change™ partnership with the Calgary Stampeders and Edmonton Eskimos. We are greatly appreciative of the seed funding from Alberta Human Services, who saw the promise of engaging men and boys in this way. The CFL Project model gives us the opportunity to work with member shelters in Edmonton and Calgary, reinforcing strong

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics in the report based on years 1980-2012. They account for 28% of all female homicides in the province.

community bonds with shelters and schools and adding provincial partnership benefits to existing local programming. We were able to build upon our Status of Women Canada funding to develop a community model for engaging men and boys, and further leverage this work with our members in Rocky Mountain House and Grande Prairie who have introduced and built this initiative in their respective communities. Thousands of young men and women have heard this message, and some have described it as life changing.

A major focus of our work with Alberta Human Services has been on data collection – and can we ever “do the math”. Standard data elements were defined and finalized for contracted shelter reporting, growing from 6 to 50. Special thanks goes to the Shelter Directors’ Data Committee members: Ian Wheeiker, Cassie Putnam, Pat Garrett, Marj Luger, Jasmin Greavitt, and Cindy Easton who were joined recently by Tess Gordey; Gillian Weaver-Dunlop and Jeff Halvorsen and all the shelter directors and staff who worked so hard to implement new ways of reporting – and sometimes reporting yet again. A major reorganization within Human Services has meant building new relationships and understanding about our respective roles.

ACWS updated the Outcome Tracker manual to reflect these changes and supported training in Edmonton and Calgary. 49 shelter staff attended from 35 shelters. Over the year ACWS provided 37 members with over 200 hours of direct individualized support relating to shelter site development, reporting and system wide trouble shooting. 15 one-on-one training sessions were also provided to shelters either through teleconference or online webinars. 43 queries were either developed or modified to support members.

69.27% of women completing the danger assessment administered by women’s shelters in Alberta reported being stalked in 2013-14.

In addition to the 5,230 children accommodated in women’s shelters in the last fiscal year, 835 women 24 years of age or younger were resident in shelter (19% of the sample size).

In December, 2014 we released our [Annual Data Count](#) report documenting the needs of shelters and created “Individual Dashboard reports” for all members mirroring the ACWS Aggregate report released in December for each shelter’s use to support change in their communities. This further raised the profile of the important work that our members do.

A discussion paper for members on privacy by design was written and distributed to shelter directors in light of concerns flagged by members at our 2014 AGM. A resource package developed with the Second-stage Shelter Committee included a literature review summarizing key research and a common outcome measurement framework including data collection tools. We will continue to work to see second stage housing recognized by government as key to protecting women’s safety and well-being and an essential part of her pathway to healing! A special thanks to the Second-stage committee members: Eileen Bell, Brigitte Baradoy, Susan White, Michele Taylor, Cassie Putnam, Karen Reynolds, Cindy Easton, Angela Rooks-Trotzuk, Natasha Carvalho, Joy Johnson-Green, Darlene Lightning-Mattson, Pat Garrett, Ian Wheeliker, Jasmin Greavett and Sherrie Botten.

Training this year included three ACYS Leadership Bursaries, Domestic Violence Survivor and Danger Assessment training sessions and a number of webinars (including goal attainment, policing guidelines and our recent “informed consent” webinar). As well, we had discussions at the shelter directors meeting around consistent provincial messaging and wrote a discussion

paper to support conversations about gendered analysis at the community level. The more we can engage the public in understand violence against women using common language, the greater our chances of ending it. As Paulo Freire is quoted, “Language is never neutral”<sup>2</sup>.

We continue to raise awareness about violence against women through social media. This includes wall posts, likes and followers on Facebook; views on our YouTube channel; releases and advisories for use by our members; responses to media requests. Both social media channels and website experienced increased traffic with the launch of our annual data and our work with Alberta’s two CFL teams. Our on-line listing of women’s and seniors shelters is a major resource for the public. The ACWS website receives a lot of traffic, with the Shelter Directory page averaging over 2,000 visits in a week. In addition, last year our 1-800 toll free line received 1,486 calls that were forwarded to the member nearest to them.

I have had the honor of being the co-chair of the Canadian Network of Women’s Shelters and Transition Houses. We have worked to unite shelters across Canada through their provincial networks, developing the questions for the second Shelter Voices survey, which built on the work done by ACWS and our Shelter Data Count. We have also, in conjunction with the Network, supported the development of the Blueprint for a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and the call for a leaders debate on women’s issues during the federal election campaign.

As the ACWS representative to the Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness, I have had the privilege of meeting key players in housing from across the province and have tried to ensure that the needs of abused women and children are considered as part of the plan to end homelessness.

We were pleased to welcome Jennifer Ness and Amy Mercure back at the end of this year fiscal year from their maternity leaves! In closing, I would like to thank our members for their ongoing encouragement and support as we work together to end violence against women and children; ACWS staff who are tireless in their efforts for women’s shelters and our goal of ending domestic violence and abuse and the ACWS board for their hard work during a time of transition to a new governance model and for being such effective ambassadors for ACWS.

“I have decided to take my life back from my partner” **Calgary**

“My family and I are safe, healthy and cared for... thank you.” **Brooks**

“If the staff hadn't been so supportive and positive I would have returned to my abusive partner”. **Taber**

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<sup>2</sup> Freire, Paulo (1970). Pedagogy of the Oppressed. New York: Continuum.

## Board Committee Report

### Board Governance Committee – Brenda Rebman

The 2013 changes to our bylaws laid the foundation for structural changes to our Board, and with that came the onerous task of making Policy, Committee Terms of Reference and Board Representative changes. We are now a Board with four “At Large” public members who are not involved in any Shelter. I chaired the Governance Committee this year, with Brenda Brochu, Lewis Cardinal and Kelly-Ann Fenney as members.

This year, we continued to work on revamping the Policy Manual and Terms of Reference for Board Committees. We held three meetings by telephone and followed up electronically until we felt we had the policies ready for presentation to the Board. We presented our changes to the ACWS Board for their discussion/approval and we are now functioning with our new policies in place.

Once our policy review was complete, we turned our focus to drafting an Annual Workplan for the Board. This plan identified the major activities of the Board, a timeline for their completion and the responsible party.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Governance Committee for their work on the policies and the workplan. I would also like to thank the ACWS staff, who tirelessly support us in achieving our goals and objectives. I enjoy the work I do with the Committee and look forward to contributing further in the pursuit of eliminating domestic violence.

"I can't even think of anything that was overlooked by the facility. They accommodate a healthy me, down to preparing Easter Baskets for my children." **Whitecourt**

"This is the best support of my life."  
**Strathmore**

"I actually really like the security guards... just want to say, hey security guard, you guys are doing a great job keeping us safe! I like that it's hard to get in here." **Calgary**



## Audited Financial Statements

Includes:

**Auditor's Report**

**Statement of Financial Position**

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**

**Statement of Operations**

**Statement of Cash Flow**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**Grant Schedule**

"You all helped me save my life and I will be forever grateful" **Cold Lake**

"I am so grateful to everyone involved with the shelter. You helped me stabilize and calm when I am not stable and things are very chaotic in my life. Thank you, your support was over whelming positive. Bright blessings to everyone working at the shelter – thank you for so many things."

**Rocky Mountain House**

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF  
WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

	Page
Auditor's Report	1
Statement of Financial Position	2
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	3
Statement of Operations	4
Statement of Cash Flow	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 – 13
Grant Schedule	14

# Skolney & Company

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## Chartered Accountants

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### AUDITOR'S REPORT

To The Members of  
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

We have audited the statement of financial position of Alberta Council of Women's Shelters as at March 31, 2015 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flow for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### *Management's responsibility for the financial statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, 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.

#### *Auditor's responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

#### *Basis for qualified opinion*

In common with many charitable organizations, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters derives revenue from donations the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to recorded contributions, the excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended March 31, 2015 and March 31, 2014, and net assets for both the March 31, 2015 and 2014 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2015 was modified accordingly, because of the possible effects of this scope limitation.

#### *Qualified opinion*

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the "Basis for Qualified Opinion" paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters at March 31, 2015, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

June 5, 2015  
Edmonton, Alberta

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT MARCH 31, 2015**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2 and 6)	717,000	522,157
Grant receivable	4,195	106,482
Prepaid	1,949	1,000
GST receivable	11,026	12,214
<u>Guaranteed investment certificate</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,000</u>
	734,170	841,853
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Notes 2 and 4)	6,063	7,781
	<u>740,233</u>	<u>849,634</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	29,898	47,476
Unexpended grants (Note 3)	311,989	421,835
<u>Deferred contributions related to operations</u>	<u>31,163</u>	<u>14,866</u>
	373,050	484,177
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	249,244	245,800
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS (Note 5)	111,876	111,876
INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT	6,063	7,781
	<u>367,183</u>	<u>365,457</u>
	<u>740,233</u>	<u>849,634</u>

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

\_\_\_\_\_ Director



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

	2015			2014	
	Investment in Property and Equipment \$	Internally Restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	Total \$	Total \$
BALANCE, beginning of year	7,781	111,876	245,800	365,457	423,090
Excess of (expenses over revenues) revenue over expenses	(1,718)	-	3,444	1,726	(57,633)
BALANCE, end of year	<u>6,063</u>	<u>111,876</u>	<u>249,244</u>	<u>367,183</u>	<u>365,457</u>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	\$	\$
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Grants (Schedule 1)	542,214	1,085,448
Government of Alberta	250,000	250,000
Donations	95,582	104,796
Fundraising	90,115	81,463
Casino revenue	80,772	-
Membership fees	56,450	31,500
Registration and workshop fees	27,127	-
Interest and other income	16,561	25,910
	1,158,821	1,579,117
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Wages and employee benefits	521,750	846,972
Program expenses	506,515	573,430
Recruitment and training	42,154	70,124
Occupancy costs	39,511	39,622
Office and miscellaneous	17,180	37,572
Annual General Meeting	13,801	23,457
Telephone	7,330	7,386
Professional fees	4,325	4,807
Insurance	2,131	2,120
Repairs and maintenance	374	19,024
Casino expense	306	-
Shelter Emergency Distributions	-	9,996
Amortization	1,718	2,240
	1,157,095	1,636,750
<b>(EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUES)</b>		
<b>REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	1,726	(57,633)

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	\$	\$
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of expenses over revenues for the year	1,726	(52,633)
Items not affecting cash-		
Amortization of property and equipment	1,718	2,240
Change in non-cash working capital items -		
Decrease (Increase) in Grants and GST receivable	106,821	(49,559)
Increase (Decrease) in deferred contributions	16,297	(32,208)
(Decrease) Increase in unexpended grants	(113,192)	4,495
(Increase) Decrease in prepaid expenses	(949)	-
(Decrease) Increase in accounts payable	(17,578)	(9,277)
	(5,157)	(136,942)
<b>FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Investment in property and equipment	-	(1,092)
Transfer from internally restricted		(5,000)
	-	(6,092)
<b>(DECREASE) IN CASH</b>	(5,157)	(143,034)
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year</b>	722,157	865,191
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year</b>	717,000	722,157
<b>Cash is comprised of:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	717,000	522,157
Guaranteed investment certificate	-	200,000
	717,000	722,157

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) was incorporated under the Societies Act of the Province of Alberta on April 11, 1983. The Council is a registered charity and is exempt from income tax under the provisions of paragraph 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act. The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters 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, and
- 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.

**2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

(A) Cash and cash equivalents

The organization's policy is to present bank balances and term deposits with a maturity period of three months or less from the date of acquisition under cash and cash equivalents.

Cash and cash equivalents is comprised of the following:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Cash	\$ 646,109	\$ 216,748
Cash – casino account	52,174	40,456
Savings account	<u>18,717</u>	<u>264,952</u>
	<u>\$ 717,000</u>	<u>\$ 522,156</u>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

**2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**(B) Revenue Recognition –**

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. 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 collections are reasonably assured.

**(C) Equipment**

Equipment is carried at cost less accumulated amortization. The Council records amortization over the estimated useful lives of the equipment using the straight-line method at the following annual rates:

Office	20%
Computer	33 1/3%

**(D) Measurement Uncertainty –**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organization management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and 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. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

**2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**(E) Financial instruments**

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. 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 the statement of operations.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, accounts receivable, grants receivable and investments in government bonds.

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

**3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS**

Unexpended grants represent funds whose resources are to be used for an identified purpose as specified by the agency providing the funds. Management keeps internal records reporting results on project by project basis. The balance of the unexpended funds is comprised of the following:

**A. ACWS Second Stage Shelter Project**

During a prior year, the Council received \$25,000 for Rebuilding Lives Program ACWS Second Stage Shelter Project. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$13,997. During the year \$13,997 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2015 of \$0.

**B. Women's Shelter Leadership Bursary**

In 2007 – 2008, ACWS received a grant of \$400,000 from Alberta Children's Services to assist senior women shelter staff to enhance their organization leadership capacity. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$91,911. During the year, \$37,500 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2015 of \$54,411.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

**3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)**

C. Workplace Violence – HSAA

In a prior year, the Council entered into a five year funding agreement calling for \$50,000 annual funding with the Health Sciences Association of Alberta to develop a program to address workplace violence. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$2,063. During the year, the Council expended \$884 on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2015 of \$ 1,179.

D. Family Business Connect

The Family-Business Connect is part of a violence reduction plan announced by Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel and Police Chief Rod Knecht. It is designed to build connections between major businesses and the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters to raise awareness of domestic violence and its impact upon the workplace, the family and the community. The unexpended balance at the beginning of the year was \$263,915. During the year, the Council received \$10,000 from City of Edmonton and \$62,115 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2015 of \$211,800.

E. Information Exchange

In a prior year the Council received \$5,000 for information exchange from The Calgary Foundation to develop a website that could share knowledge between members, engage the public and strengthen our ability to connect with victims and professionals in the domestic violence industry. The unexpended balance of prior year was \$5,000. During the year, the Council expended \$ 5,000 on the project, leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2015 of \$0.

F. IODE – Training Fund

In a prior year, the Council received from IODE \$31,346 to help shelter workers to expand their knowledge on family violence and children exposed to domestic violence through the Crisis workers certificate program offered by Portage College. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$8,546. \$5,200 was expended during the year leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2015 of \$3,346.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

**3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)**

G. Child Care

In the prior years, the Council received \$155,000 to support building provincial capacity for shelter staff to meet the needs of families and children who have experienced family violence. The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$12,133. During the year, the Council expended \$3,089 on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2015 of \$9,044.

H. National Crime Prevention Week Fund

In the prior year, the Council received \$4,320 grant for the project "Taking Action in Everyday Moments Can Empower Victims of Abuse". The unexpended portion at the beginning of the year was \$ 4,320. During the year, \$2,880 was received and \$7,200 was expended leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2015 of \$ 0.

I. National Victim Crime Week

During the year, the Council received \$5,300 for the project entitled "Compassionate Practice" to provide Danger Assessment training for member shelters. \$250 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2015 of \$5,050.

J. CFL Project

During the year, the Council received \$200,000 to work with two Alberta CFL teams to provide awareness of and change the culture of domestic abuse. During the year, \$183,578 was expended on the project leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2015 of \$16,422.



**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

**3. UNEXPENDED GRANTS (continued)**

K. Working Together-Engaging Men and boys in Ending Violence

In a prior year year, the Council received a grant of \$100,000 to deliver innovative approaches to engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls. The unexpended balance at the beginning of the year was \$15,843. During the year, the Council received \$89,998 and expended \$99,158, leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2015 of \$6,683.

L. Devon Workplace Learning

In a prior year, the Council received \$5,000 Investing in People grant for the development of people to create healthy and respectful workplaces. The unexpended balance at the beginning of the year was \$4,107. The Council expended \$53 leaving an unexpended balance at March 31, 2015 of \$4,054.

**4. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

	<b>2015</b>		<b>2014</b>	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Office equipment	\$48,558	\$43,304	\$ 5,254	\$ 6,567
Computer equipment	18,683	17,874	809	1,214
	<u>\$67,241</u>	<u>\$61,178</u>	<u>\$6,063</u>	<u>\$ 7,781</u>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

**5. INTERNAL RESTRICTIONS**

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

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	\$	\$
<hr/>		
(a) Stabilization reserve		
The Council has established a stabilization reserve to hold three months of operating expenses.	62,000	62,000
(b) World Conference Legacy fund		
The Council has established a reserve to be used for dissemination and follow up activities related to the first World Conference on Women's Shelters.	49,876	49,876
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>111,876</b>	<b>111,876</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

**6. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

Funds gained from a Casino event are placed in a separate bank account. These funds, which total \$52,174 at year end, are restricted in that they may 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 past license indicated that the funds would be used for occupational costs as well as costs associated with the creation and distribution of the agency's newsletter and development of the organization's website.

**7. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Council is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis presents the Council's exposures to significant risk at the reporting date, March 31, 2015.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the organization will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. This risk is reduced by monitoring expenses and investing in guaranteed investment certificates when feasible.

**8. COMMITMENT**

The Council rents premises under an operating lease effective March 1, 2012, expiring February 28, 2017. The annual base rent in years 1 – 3 is \$15,421 and in years 4 -5 is \$17,624.

**ALBERTA COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS  
GRANT SCHEDULE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	\$	\$
CFL Project	183,578	-
Operation/Council	124,190	159,913
Engaging Men	99,158	84,159
Family Business Connect	62,113	56,105
Bursary Program-Children's Services(recovery)	37,500	36,649
2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage Shelters-CWF	13,997	11,003
National Crime Prevention Week	7,200	-
Information Exchange	5,000	-
IODE – Crisis Training	5,200	9,100
Child Care	3,089	8,370
Workplace Violence - HSAA	884	9,364
National Victim Crime Week	250	1,695
Workplace Learning-Devon	55	890
Walking the Path Together-NCPC	-	498,865
Taking a Stand	-	150,000
Walking the Path-SCIF	-	45,153
Stollery	-	12,090
UN-Women-Canadian Network	-	2,092
	<b>542,214</b>	<b>1,085,448</b>