

1. Introduction

In 2010-11 there were 37 women's emergency shelters in Alberta. On the Alberta government's Children and Youth Services website it was stated that during the 2010-11 fiscal year the Alberta government invested \$26 million in 29 emergency shelters, three on-reserve women's shelters, and programming in two second-stage shelters.³ This webpage further elaborated that these funds included support for women's shelters, family violence outreach services to the community, and a treatment program for male victims of family violence.⁴ The province had a cap of up to \$100,000 in their agreements with the three on-reserve shelters in 2010-11. When one considers the first statement that the \$26 million funds 34 facilities (less \$300K for 3 on-reserve shelters), this averages \$829,032.26 per facility.⁵

The INAC Transfer Payment Programs line item for the national Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) reads, *Payments to support Indians, Inuit and Innu for the purpose of supplying public services in social development - Contributions to support culturally appropriate family violence shelter and prevention services for Indian women, children and families resident on reserve* and it is stated as being assigned an estimated \$28.6 million in the 2010-11 fiscal year.⁶ This is the only line item for Shelters in the entire INAC transfer payment program budget. INAC stated that in the 2010-11 fiscal year it funded 41 Shelters across Canada. It also stated that in 2010-11 the FVPP funds are dispersed across three types of funding: 1) a number of regional prevention projects, 2) 41 Shelters, and 3) provincial/territorial reimbursements.⁷

The table below shows the spending estimates for the fiscal year 2009-10 and 2010-11.⁸ In the fiscal year shown for the province of Alberta above, the Alberta Shelters were estimated to receive \$465,510.00 on average.

Fiscal year	FVVP amount	41 national Shelters amount	Alberta 6 Shelters amount	Alberta Shelters average
2009-10	\$29.01 million	\$18.1047 million	\$2.8331 million	\$472,183.00
2010-11	\$28.60 million	\$17.8488 million	\$2.7931 million	\$465,510.00

³ Government of Alberta, Children and Youth Services, Program's and Services, Family Violence, Family Violence Emergency Shelters. www.child.alberta.ca/home/829.cfm.

⁴ The provincial government's budget numbers also include funding for sexual assault centres and other family violence services.

⁵ We have requested a further breakdown from the province of Alberta, but were unable to obtain these numbers prior to the preparation of this document.

⁶ Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Departmental Plan for Transfer Payment Programs 2010-2011, www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ai/arp/es/1011/rpp/rrp10-eng.asp. Date Modified:2010-04-22.

⁷ See Appendix A: Communication via Email from Grant Britton to Jan Reimer and cc'd to Carol Schimanke on May 21, 2010 at 2:12:07 PM MDT, with the subject as: **FV Shelter questions** and the attached file named: **ALBERTA_FN SHELTERS.DOC**.

⁸ *ibid.*

The Alberta Treaty Chiefs (Numbers 6, 7 and 8) published a Resolution on March 29, 2010 named: 29-03-2010-#02R, Alberta First Nation Women's Shelter Funding (see Appendix B). Within this release four resolutions were passed that called for the federal government to ensure the Alberta Shelters are funded at a level that reflects the actual cost to properly run a viable and safe Shelter and that ensures annual increases that reflect the increases of living. They cited that by following the Johnston Report (July 31, 2006) recommended formula the Shelters should operate at a predictable, sufficient and sustainable level.

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) was formed in 1981 and incorporated in 1983 to provide a unified voice for the sheltering movement. Nearly half of all women and children admitted into emergency shelters in Alberta identify as Aboriginal. In February 2005, ACWS completed a *"Comparative Review and Evaluation - Seeking Parity Between On-Reserve Shelters and Shelters Funded by the Province of Alberta and the Alberta On-Reserve Committee"*. Working with the Alberta On-Reserve Shelters, ACWS compared funding between on- and off-reserve shelters. The five on-reserve INAC funded shelters, at that time, were compared to equal sized provincial shelters' staffing, administration, operational, facility and maintenance costs. Disparity existed in each instance to the total amount of \$1.05 million.⁹

1.1. Report Rationale

The Alberta Treaty Chiefs have called for action with regard to the implementation of what they referred to as a funding formula for Alberta First Nations Women's Shelters that enables them to operate at a predictable, sufficient and sustainable level. Data provided by INAC regional representatives and the Government of Alberta website indicate that shelter allocations within the province are at a higher level than that allocated by INAC for on-reserve shelters. It is the needs mandated by the Chiefs and these preliminary data that indicate there is room for improvement with regard to the management and funding of the programming that enables the Alberta First Nations Women's Shelters to operate.

All the on-reserve shelters in Alberta are members of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. In serving their members, the Council has worked to ensure that the lack of financial support from the federal government is addressed. This has been done through reports, media releases and most currently, through the commissioning of this report.

⁹ Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. A Comparative Review and Evaluation: Seeking Parity Between On-Reserve Shelters and Shelters Funded by the Province of Alberta. February 2005.