YWCA
LETHBRIDGE
& DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



OKI!
TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The YWCA Lethbridge & District acknowledges that Sikoohkotoki, the city of Lethbridge, resides on the traditional lands of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains and pays respect to the Blackfoot people past, present, and future while recognizing and respecting their cultural heritage, beliefs, and relationship to the land.

We acknowledge that Lethbridge is also home to the Métis Battle River Territory.





Shay-Lynn Strikes With A Gun (Matoyiitsoowaakii - Pretty Grass Woman) of Piikani and Kainai Nation delivers an opening prayer at Take Back the Night (October 2023).

WHO WE ARE

Like many member organizations across Canada, the YWCA Lethbridge & District began in 1949 with a simple goal: to provide young working women and students a safe place to stay in the city. By 1951, the organization was incorporated as a society, and today enters its 75th year as a nonprofit still adapting to meet needs of the community, guided by its vision for a future of equality and empowerment for women and girls.

MISSION

Enhancing lives through personal empowerment and supportive community.

VISION

We are an organization created by women that is leading the community with innovative solutions to enrich lives, promote fulfillment, and create happiness.

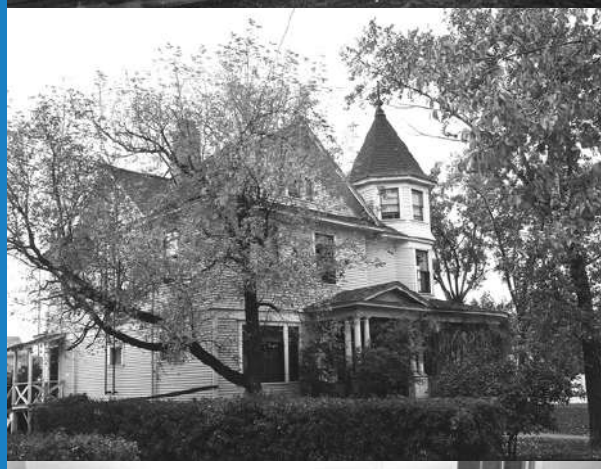
VALUES

Health and Wellbeing, Perseverance, Community, Mentorship, Integrity, Safety, and Equity.











HELLO FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the YWCA Lethbridge and District Board of Directors, we want to sincerely thank you all for your commitment to and support of our organization.

This past year has been transformative, marked by significant strides in our journey towards growth, innovation, and strategic alignment.

One of the most pivotal aspects of our progress this past year has been our Board and CEO's collective willingness to ask "why." By consistently questioning our methods, strategies, and outcomes, we have fostered a culture of curiosity and continuous improvement.

Our receptiveness to change has been instrumental in navigating this past year. We have actively sought out new perspectives, welcomed diverse ideas, and engaged in robust discussions that challenge the status quo.

A cornerstone of our efforts this past year has been our engagement in comprehensive strategic planning for the organization. This process has involved in-depth analysis and a forward-thinking approach that ensures we are not just reacting to changes but proactively shaping our future.

As we look ahead, I am filled with optimism and excitement for what the next year holds. We are committed to continuing our journey of reflection and growth, leveraging our strengths and addressing our challenges with the same tenacity we have this past year.

The Board would also like to express our gratitude to our CEO, Jill Young, her visionary leadership has been instrumental in driving our organization forward. Her passion for empowering women and providing supportive programming within the YWCA is evident throughout her work.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the front-line staff and managers of all of the programs the YWCA offers. Your extraordinary dedication to the organization, your compassion for the participants, and your hard work do not go unnoticed.

Thank you to the membership for your continued trust and partnership and we look forward to strengthening our community connections over the coming years.





Emily Tilleman-Gatz
Chair



Hannah Scott
Vice Chair



Catherine Filgas
Treasurer



Ally Keith
Director



Kimberly Manning
Director



Cyndi Bester
Director



Charlene Scheffelmair
Director



Blaine Badiuk
Director



Lisa Togher
Director

Board of DIRECTORS

HELLO FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



As I reflect on the past year at YWCA Lethbridge & District, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible achievements and unwavering support from our community. This year has been marked by remarkable milestones, significant advocacy efforts, and an inspiring collective commitment to our mission of empowering women and reshaping gender norms.

One of the highlights of our year was the spectacular success of our inaugural YWCA Gala. This event brought in record donations and support for our organization, demonstrating the tremendous generosity and commitment of our community. The funds raised at the Gala will enable us to continue to deliver our programs and services, ensuring that we make a meaningful impact in the lives of women and families throughout Lethbridge and beyond.

Equally inspiring was the Women of Distinction Awards in March. This event recognized the extraordinary accomplishments of women in our community, shining a spotlight on their leadership, courage, and dedication. By sharing their stories, we highlighted the importance of empowering women and the significant contributions they make to our society. The Women of Distinction Awards not only celebrated these remarkable individuals but also reinforced our message of gender equality and the power of women's voices.

Our work is deeply rooted in the support we receive from our community, and this year, that support has been nothing short of phenomenal. From financial contributions to volunteer hours, from in-kind donations to heartfelt encouragement, every gesture has played a crucial role in advancing our programs and services. It is this collective spirit of giving and solidarity that enables us to make a tangible difference in the lives of women and families across Lethbridge and beyond.

Throughout the year, we have continued to champion the empowerment of women and the reshaping of gender norms. Our programs have provided essential support, education, and resources, empowering women to take control of their lives and futures. We have seen firsthand the transformative power of our work, and it reinforces our resolve to keep pushing boundaries and breaking down barriers.

As we look forward to the year ahead, I am confident that, with your continued support, we will achieve even greater heights. Together, we will create a community where every woman and girl has the opportunity to thrive, where gender equality is not just an aspiration but a reality.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Your commitment and support inspire us to dream bigger, work harder, and strive for a brighter, more equitable future.



HARBOUR HOUSE

YWCA Harbour House is a 24-hour emergency shelter that supports women and children fleeing domestic violence, as well as women in crisis, space permitting, offering 21-day stays. It also operates a 24/7/365 day crisis line for individuals experiencing domestic violence. Harbour House participants have access to a variety of resources, including:

- Sexual assault advocacy and support
- Daily educational programming
- Goal setting
- On-site childcare and school that is part of the Lethbridge School District
- Hidden Treasures closet to “shop” for clothing and other personal items

In the past year, Harbour House recorded:

2301
Crisis calls

292 + 108
Women + children sheltered

164
Sexual assaults disclosed in shelter

827
Individuals turned away due to capacity

Changes in Access Trends
in the past year

15.7% Increase in crisis calls

18.6% Increase in turn-aways due to capacity

31.7% More children in shelter



HESTIA HOMES

The YWCA Hestia Homes Program supports and empowers youth aged 17-24 who have been or are at risk of becoming homeless in three scattered-site homes. An adult role model lives in each home providing assistance and serving as a mentor. Residential support staff provide support with household activities such as cooking and cleaning. Residents set goals, manage health, manage finances, and explore activity options with the support of their Case Manager.

17
Youth served

100+
Referrals made



HEAR FROM HESTIA HOMES PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:

"This place gave me a chance to grow as a person knowing there are people who care about you. I never had this, so I am very grateful for Hestia."

"The Hestia Homes program has allowed me to become more independent as well as get me used to being able to ask for help if I need it."

"The support of the YWCA and their involvement with other youth assistance programs has given me an opportunity to gain a proper introduction to adulthood. I never thought I'd get the opportunity to start anew."

AMETHYST PROJECT

The Amethyst Project provided crisis support and advocacy to individuals who have experienced sexual violence, historic or recent, with 24/7 support. The program was unique in offering a "Third Option," which allowed completed Sexual Assault Evidence Kits to be retained for up to one year, providing survivors additional time to decide if they would like to pursue legal action. In the past year, Amethyst Project Sexual Violence Intervention Advocates attended the Chinook Regional Hospital Emergency Room to support 80 individuals, and provided 496 follow-ups. No third option kits were pursued.

98
Individuals served

17
Third option kits completed

13
Individuals under 18 served

5
Males supported

In April 2024, after ten years of operations, the Amethyst Project closed its doors. The spirit of the program now lives on through a recent partnership between Victims Witness Services and Chinook Sexual Assault Centre, and the third option remains available to the Lethbridge & District community, ensuring survivors retain full autonomy of their healing journeys.



HARBOUR HOUSE SUPPORT SERVICES

Harbour House Support Services (HHSS) provide a variety of outreach services to YWCA program participants and community members. Members of the HHSS team include Intensive Case Managers, a Child Trauma Informed Specialist, Innovative Child Care Workers, and a Client Education Specialist.

200
Women served

184
Children served

117
Partner checks completed

88
Victim Awareness Sessions

98
Children in Child Care program

Offering various supports, staff also assist clients in applying for income, health, and housing programs, facilitate community referrals, develop safety plans, and much more.

PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

"Truthfully, I miss the staff. Everyone is amazing, I love the YWCA. They really helped me get back on my feet."

"I thought I would be alone going through homelessness but [the YWCA] has been supportive."



75th Anniversary Spotlight

MEET CONNIE

CLIENT EDUCATION SPECIALIST

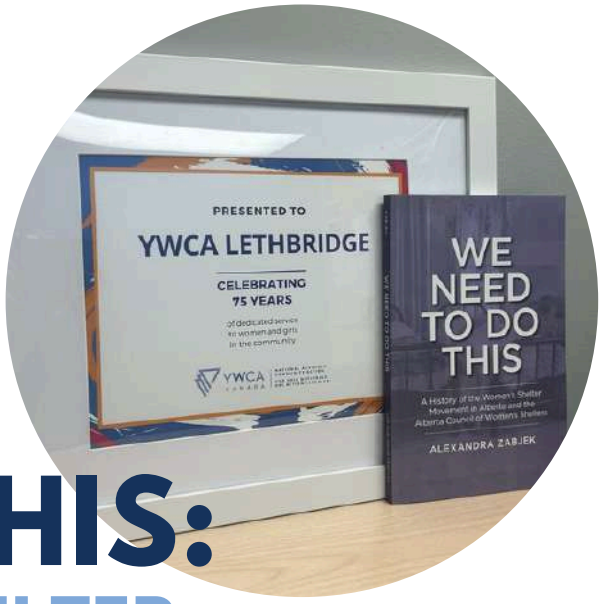


As the YWCA Lethbridge & District enters its 75th year, we wanted to reflect on the significant contributions of some of our longest-serving staff members, who play an instrumental role in our organization. Connie Knoblick has been a fixture of the YWCA for the past fifteen years.

A tireless advocate for her clients, Connie has worked for almost a decade to support victims of domestic violence in navigating the legal system. She supports clients in attending court, understanding no-contact orders and other legal paperwork, and by making community and legal referrals. Connie also offers self-developed Victim's Awareness Sessions (VAS), 2-hour education sessions on domestic violence and healthy relationships which include topics such as safety planning, the cycle and dynamics of violence, power and control, and how violence impacts children, among others.

Connie brings to her work a wealth of knowledge of domestic violence and its complexities, and a deep awareness of how empowering this education can be to the people she serves. When asked what she finds most meaningful about her work, Connie reflected on how this kind of support can help to alleviate individuals' fear and anxiety, and her joy in seeing her clients find hope again.

75th Anniversary Spotlight



WE (STILL) NEED TO DO THIS:

YWCA CONTINUES SHELTER MOVEMENT'S MISSION

Written by Alexandra Zabjek and released in September 2023, *We Need to do This: A History of the Women's Shelter Movement in Alberta and the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters* (ACWS) tells the story of ACWS's emergence and of the grassroots activism undertaken across Alberta to raise the profile of gender-based violence and open the province's first women's shelters.

Weaving together narratives from women at the frontline of this movement, the book features an interview with YWCA Lethbridge & District Facilities Manager Lena Neufeld, who began her career in 1986 in Harbour House, one of about a dozen shelters in Alberta at the time. In her interview, Lena recounts how Harbour House, its staff, and attitudes about domestic violence shifted over the course of her career. Her narrative speaks to the need for shelters to constantly adapt and the spirit of early activism that endures today.

As the YWCA Lethbridge & District's 75th year begins, this work serves as a striking reminder of how far the shelter movement has come, and of how important the mission of the YWCA remains.

SAFE VISITATION

Safe Visitation is a program that promotes the maintenance and rebuilding of healthy relationships between children and non-custodial parents. Offered in a secure facility with plenty of toys and games to entertain, families who access Safe Visitation benefit from a safe environment free from judgement, and at no cost to program users. Facilitator monitor visits, promote play, and support participants in navigating parenting. Virtual and phone call visits are also offered.

158
Families served

12
New family intakes

428
Visits scheduled



SAFE VISITATION PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIAL

"I'd love to thank the YWCA Safe Visitation program for allowing my daughter to have a relationship with her mother and providing a safe place for them to have weekly meetings. It has been a wonderful experience getting to know some of the staff and they have been totally accommodating and understanding of our complicated situation. They foster a thoughtful, respectful, and judgement-free environment and truly care about what's best for the child and family as a whole. They are very much needed and appreciated in our community."

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAY PROGRAM

The Neighbourhood Play Program (NPP) has been a Lethbridge staple every summer for decades, operated by the YWCA since 1987. NPP provides quality programming to children aged six to twelve in various neighbourhoods throughout the city of Lethbridge. The program encourages “learning through play” by providing an environment for children to develop their social, physical, and cognitive skills through participation in various activities. NPP is a non-preregistration, no-fee, drop-in program.







7
Parks in Lethbridge and Coalhurst

3370
Visits by children

18
Young adults employed

IN THE COMMUNITY



YWCA receives a story blanket from Susan and son Gerry.



YWCA staff and Director attend Light up Local event.



NPP staff works some face-painting magic!



YWCA participates in the Whoop Up Days 50/50.



Community members participate in annual "Take Back the Night" march.



YWCA staff attend the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness national conference in Halifax, NS.



Inaugural YWCA Gala, presented by Grassroots Realty Group.



YWCA staff attend the Alberta Council for Women's Shelters "With the Guys" event in Calgary, AB.



Volunteer makes a meal for Hestia Homes "Big Cook."



YWCA staff recognize National Ribbon Skirt Day.



Stockings of Hope gifts ready for delivery.



Local high school students take part in a Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month presentation.



48th Annual YWCA Women of Distinction Awards.



Board of Directors celebrate Women of Distinction.



YWCA staff attend Indigenous Employment Opportunities Hiring Fair.



Staff participate in a Blanket Exercise lead by the Honouring Traditions Reconciliation Society.



GirlGang YQL drops off a cheque after raising money for YWCA programs through their annual Galentine's Day.



Staff volunteer for Polished Janitorial's Spring into Charity BBQ.

GETTING INVOLVED



48TH ANNUAL WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

YWCA Women of Distinction awards recognize those women who, through their own initiative, ability, and effort, have made exemplary achievements in their fields – women who are outstanding role models because of their goals and the way they have achieved these goals. Whether recognized as trailblazers in their fields, or young women on the rise, all are pathfinders, bringing forth the key issues facing Canadian women.

Each year, YWCA Lethbridge & District honours women who have made substantial contributions to the social fabric of our community in unique and individual ways. Here are the 2024 Women of Distinction award winners:



Trudi Mason
Education & mentorship



Kamryn Sandberg
Young Woman of Promise



Mandy DeCecco-Kolebaba
Leadership and Empowerment



Dawn Sugimoto
Community Leadership and Enhancement

AUDITED SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Board of Directors of Young Women's Christian Association of Lethbridge and District

Opinion

The summary financial statements of Young Women's Christian Association of Lethbridge and District (the Association), which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2024, the summary statement of operations and fund balances for the year then ended, and related note are derived from the audited financial statements of Young Women's Christian Association of Lethbridge and District as at and for the year ended March 31, 2024. In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with the criteria disclosed in the Note in the summary financial statements.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Association's audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated June 19, 2024.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with the criteria disclosed in the Note in the summary financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Lethbridge, Canada

June 19, 2024

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CON'T

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF LETHBRIDGE AND DISTRICT

Summary Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position

Year ended March 31, 2024 with comparative information for 2023

	Operating Fund	Gaming Fund	Capital Fund	2024	2023
Assets:					
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 82,280	$ 97,299	$ 154,800	$ 334,379	$ 525,396
Short-term investments	1,374,868	-	197,693	1,572,561	1,572,561
Accounts receivable	95,612	-	-	95,612	293,772
Prepaid expenses	43,972	-	-	43,972	35,400
	1,596,732	97,299	352,493	2,046,524	2,427,129
Capital assets	-	-	639,658	639,658	681,588
	$1,596,732	$ 97,299	$ 992,151	$2,686,182	$ 3,108,717
Liabilities and Fund balances:					
Current liabilities:					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	108,889	-	-	108,889	224,048
Unearned revenue	33,949	-	-	33,949	28,053
Restricted deferred contributions	1,031,310	-	-	1,031,310	1,342,311
	1,174,148	-	-	1,174,148	1,594,412
Unamortized capital contributions	-	-	390,227	390,227	426,711
	1,174,148	-	390,227	1,564,375	2,021,123
Fund balances:					
Internally restricted					
Capital investment reserve	-	-	324,089	324,089	321,366
Capital replacement reserve	-	-	28,404	28,404	28,404
Operating reserve	327,804	-	-	327,804	325,081
Externally restricted					
Gaming reserve	-	97,299	-	97,299	39,802
Invested in capital assets	-	-	249,431	249,431	254,877
Unrestricted	94,780	-	-	94,780	118,064
	422,584	97,299	601,924	1,121,807	1,087,594
	$1,596,732	$ 97,299	$ 992,151	$2,686,182	$ 3,108,717

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CON'T

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF LETHBRIDGE AND DISTRICT

Summary Financial Statements

Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended March 31, 2024, with comparative information for 2023

	Budget (Unaudited)	Operating Fund	Gaming Fund	Capital Fund	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Revenue:						
Grants	$ 2,500,993	$ 2,512,437	$ -	$ -	$2,512,437	$ 3,328,648
Fees for service	97,200	95,950	-	-	95,950	369,118
Donations	640,259	300,375	-	-	300,375	81,888
Fundraising	53,000	182,561	36,042	-	218,603	129,280
Other	-	24,606	-	-	24,606	6,473
Interest	82,729	89,394	-	2,178	91,572	35,106
Amortization of capital contributions	-	-	-	38,984	38,984	45,025
	3,374,181	3,205,323	36,042	41,162	3,282,527	3,995,538
Expenses:						
Salaries and honorariums	2,604,888	2,350,336	-	-	2,350,336	3,035,325
Telephone and utilities	217,590	163,250	-	-	163,250	238,249
Direct client costs	173,290	147,765	-	-	147,765	246,725
Other	4,000	87,941	-	-	87,941	13,584
Professional fees	35,896	84,686	-	-	84,686	94,436
Fundraising costs	53,500	68,928	1,829	-	70,757	54,315
Repairs and maintenance	43,678	49,451	-	-	49,451	63,280
Insurance	49,118	47,400	-	-	47,400	41,674
Travel and training	53,490	47,202	-	-	47,202	39,575
Information and technology	48,000	45,527	-	-	45,527	15,103
Membership and fees	44,315	44,448	-	-	44,448	40,476
Supplies and stationery	30,416	26,395	-	-	26,395	24,869
Advertising and promotion	4,750	8,710	-	-	8,710	10,222
Volunteer costs	5,000	7,004	-	-	7,004	4,400
Interest and bank charges	4,850	5,068	-	-	5,068	5,005
Small equipment	1,400	1,400	-	-	1,400	1,087
Amortization	-	-	-	60,974	60,974	67,213
	3,374,181	3,185,511	1,829	60,974	3,248,314	3,995,538
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	19,812	34,213	(19,812)	34,213	-
Fund balance, beginning of year	1,087,594	443,145	39,802	604,647	1,087,594	1,087,594
Interfund transfers	-	(40,373)	23,284	17,089	-	-
Fund balance, end of year	$ 1,087,594	$ 422,584	$ 97,299	$ 601,924	$1,121,807	$1,087,594

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CON'T

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF LETHBRIDGE AND DISTRICT

Summary Financial Statements

Note to the Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements are derived from the audited financial statements, prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, as at March 31, 2024, and for the year then ended.

The preparation of these summary financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be reflected in them so that they are consistent in all materials respects with, or represent a fair summary of, the audited financial statements.

Management prepared these summary financial statements using the following criteria:

a) the summary financial statements include a statement for each statement included in the audited financial statements, excluding the Statement of Cash Flows;
b) information in the summary financial statements agrees with the related information in the audited financial statements;
c) major subtotals, totals and comparative information from the audited financial statements are included; and
d) the summary financial statements contain the information from the audited financial statements dealing with matters having a pervasive or otherwise significant effect on the summarized financial statements.

The audited financial statements of Young Women's Christian Association of Lethbridge and District are available on the Association's website at https://ywcalethbridge.com/discover-ywca-lethbridge/reporting/annual-reports-financials/.

THANK YOU

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we would like to extend a tremendous thank you to our YWCA members, community supporters, donors, and funders for their support of our mission and commitment to improving the lives of women, children, and families in the Lethbridge and district region. With you, our impact can only grow.



BECOME A MEMBER

Join our mission by becoming a member! Visit ywcalethbridge.com today for more details.

STAY IN TOUCH

Stay up to date by following us on social media, or sign up to receive our quarterly newsletter by contacting our communications team:

communications@ywcalethbridge.com

ywcalethbridge.com

YWCA Lethbridge & District

@ywcalethbridge



YWCA
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