



YWCA
LETHBRIDGE
& DISTRICT

2026

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



**YWCA Lethbridge & District
acknowledges that Sik-oo-kotoki,
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.**

WHO WE ARE

YWCA Lethbridge & District began in 1949 with a singular 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 in 2024 we celebrated our 75th year as a nonprofit.

We are striving to be a resilient and thriving leader, committed to delivering impactful services and fostering meaningful community partnerships.

We are ...

A YWCA built and sustained by the community.

A YWCA that evolves with the needs and desires of the community.

A YWCA that is well-positioned to serve Southern Alberta.

A YWCA that serves thousands of individuals each year.

WHO WE ARE



OUR VISION

YWCA Lethbridge & District reshapes gender-based power structures and paves the way for a future where women, children, and families thrive through inclusive and accessible services.

OUR MISSION

We are a charity facilitating the empowerment of women, children, and families by providing safety, support, and informed advocacy.

WHO WE ARE

community.

We foster a sense of belonging and collaboration by building strong partnerships and ensuring all voices are heard, respected, and valued. We commit to cultural safety by recognizing and addressing power dynamics, ensuring that those we serve define what safe and meaningful inclusion looks like.

health and wellbeing.

We prioritize the physical, emotional, and mental health of those we serve, and our team members. Through holistic support we create environments that promote resilience, safety, and self-determined healing.

compassion.

Guided by empathy and understanding, we approach every individual and situation with kindness and care. We support and facilitate the agency of those we serve, ensuring they have the tools and opportunities to lead their own paths forward.

A MESSAGE FROM JILL YOUNG

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded that the needs of our community continue to evolve, and we have a responsibility to evolve alongside them. Women, children, youth, and families continue to face complex challenges. Yet, alongside these realities, we also witness the impact that can be achieved when a community comes together.

Throughout the year, YWCA Lethbridge & District remained committed to providing responsive and accessible services. Through Harbour House, we offered safety and support to women and children fleeing violence. Through Hestia Homes, we walked alongside youth as they worked toward stability and independence. Through Safe Visitation, we helped foster healthy relationships and meaningful connections between children and families. Finally, through the Neighbourhood Play Program, we created spaces where children could learn, play, and build a sense of belonging. Across all of our programs, our focus remained the same: meeting people where they are and supporting them with dignity, compassion, and hope.



This year also marked an important milestone with the opening of the Hope Program. Developed in response to the growing need for transitional housing and continued support beyond emergency shelter, Hope represents our commitment to strengthening the continuum of care available within our community. We know that safety is not simply the absence of crisis, but the presence of opportunity, stability, and choice. By expanding our services to include this next step in the journey, we continue to build a more responsive system of care that reflects the realities faced by those we serve.

At the same time, we remained focused on strengthening our organization for the future through strategic planning, community partnerships, and a commitment to organizational excellence. While the work is not always easy, it is deeply meaningful, and it is only possible because of the dedication and compassion of our staff and volunteers, the thoughtful leadership of our Board of Directors, the trust of those who access our services, and the generosity of our donors, community partners, and supporters. Each plays an important role in helping us respond to today's challenges while building a stronger future for our community.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WOMEN OF DISTINCTION



2026 Women of Distinction left to right: Kaitlynn Weaver, Danielle McIntyre, Shanda Webber, Jen Visser, and Lori Harasem. Absent: Darla Mohan

May 2, 2026

In 2026, YWCA Lethbridge & District celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Women of Distinction Awards, honouring six outstanding women and reflecting on five decades of recognizing leaders who have strengthened and inspired the community. This event brought together community members and past Laureates for an evening of celebration.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



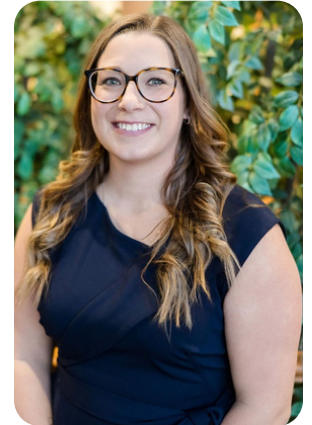
Cyndi Crane
Board Chair



Blaine Badiuk
Vice Chair



Catherine Filgas
Treasurer



Julie Lutz
Director



Shaye Paull
Director



Taylor Bourret
Director



Ally Keith
Director



Cindy Rendall
Director



Katie Tokaruk
Director



Renee Scotland
Director



Echo Nowak
Director



Christine King
Director

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Serving as Chair of the YWCA this past year has been an inspiring and meaningful experience. I have witnessed the remarkable dedication of our staff, volunteers, board members, and community partners. Together, we have worked towards being more inclusive, supportive, and an empowering environment for those we serve. This year has been marked by resilience, collaboration, and impact, and I am proud of what we have accomplished together. I am filled with hope and optimism as I reflect on our collective achievements and look ahead to the opportunities that await.

-Cyndi Crane Board Chair





OUR PROGRAMS

HESTIA HOMES

11

YOUTH SERVED

6

**YOUTH WHO PURSUED
EMPLOYMENT**

4

**YOUTH PURSUING
FURTHER EDUCATION**

8

**YOUTH WHO ACHIEVED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE
IN 2025**

Hestia Homes works to educate and role-model healthy relationship building and independent living skills to support long term stability. The program strives to equip youth with the tools and abilities needed to build healthy, stable lives once they transition out of the program. Hestia youth are considered either homeless or at risk of homelessness, making this support essential to their long-term well-being.



SAFE VISITATION

The Safe Visitation Program provides a safe, child-friendly space for non-custodial parents to have a visit with their children that promotes or rebuilds a healthy relationship.

Service delivery throughout the year remained highly responsive and accessible. The program continues to demonstrate strong operational stability, responsiveness to community need, and continued commitment to providing safe, supportive visitation opportunities for children and families.

Scheduled Visits

349

Families Served

164

Children Engaged

360



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAY PROGRAM

Neighbourhood Play Program (NPP) delivered free, drop-in “learning through play” programming for children aged 6–12 across Lethbridge, continuing a model established in 1987 in partnership with the City of Lethbridge. The program operated across South, North, and West Lethbridge, providing accessible neighbourhood-based recreation that reduced barriers related to cost and transportation while supporting inclusive participation.

Programming was guided by eight outcome areas focused on social development, teamwork, communication, leadership, creativity, community care, motor skills, and following instructions, with daily programming ensuring at least 60 minutes of physical activity.



6

PARK
LOCATIONS



1400

CHILDREN
VISITED



15

STAFF
EMPLOYED

HARBOUR HOUSE

Harbour House Women's Shelter is a short stay emergency shelter with 24 beds for women and children who are fleeing domestic violence and abuse. Harbour House provides 24-hour crisis support, assistance with meeting basic needs, groups involving safety planning, self care programming, and other educational sessions.

Referrals are made to internal and external community agencies to help provide ongoing support during their stay and after they leave Harbour House. YWCA has long time partnered with Lethbridge Public School Division to deliver K-12 curriculum to those children staying within the program. These wrap around supports ensure that participants are set up for success as they navigate their next steps.

32%  IN CRISIS CALLS

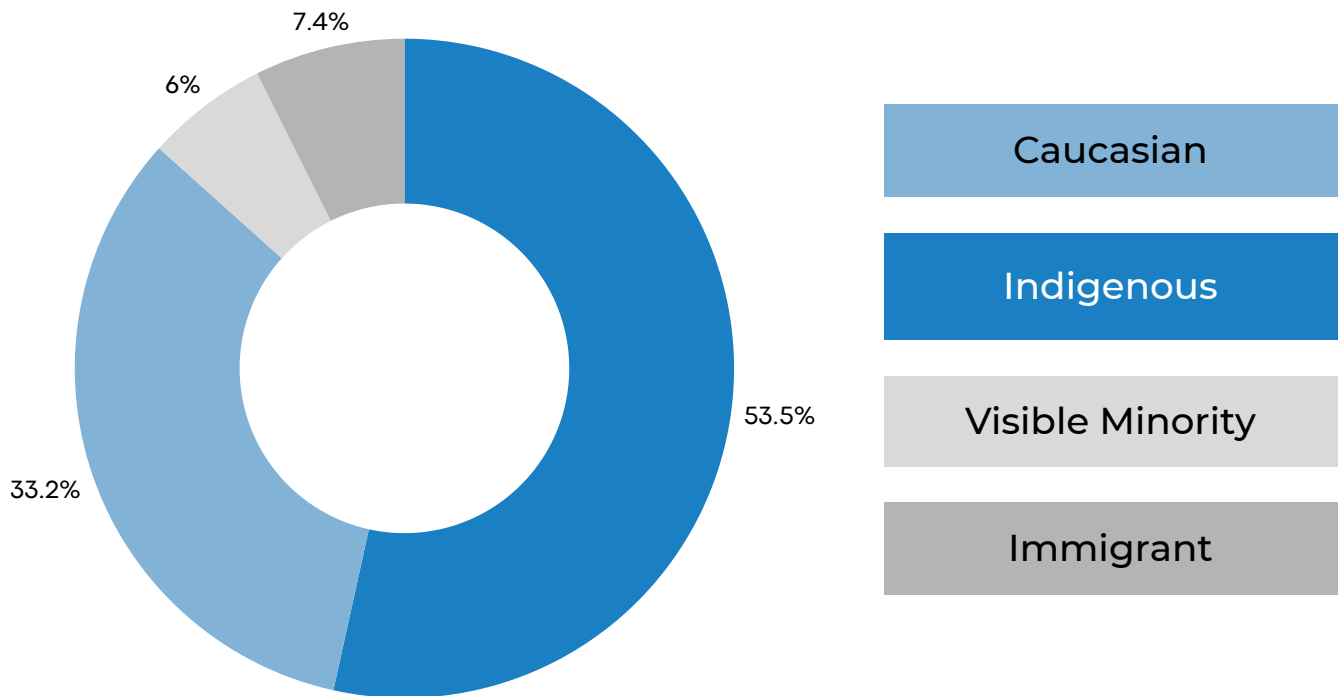
21%  IN WOMEN SERVED

102%  IN CHILDREN SERVED

90% OPERATING CAPACITY OR
HIGHER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

HARBOUR HOUSE

Demographics Served



1 in 3 women will experience a form of sexual violence in their lifetime.

37%

Of women entering shelter
report previous sexual
violence

Less than **50%**

Reported to police

HARBOUR HOUSE SUPPORT SERVICES

Members of this team include Intensive Case Managers, a Child Trauma Informed Specialist, Child Care Workers, and a Client Education Specialist; all of whom provide individualized outreach services to YWCA Lethbridge program participants, and community members.

- **Intensive Case Managers (ICM)** build individualized service plans that guide participants to meet their goals.
- **Client Education Specialist (CES)** supports participants with legal concerns, and completes Victim Awareness Sessions.
- **Child Trauma Informed Specialist** not only provides childcare but also ensures that all the children's unique developmental and behavioral needs are supported from a trauma informed lens.

Adults Supported

484

Children Supported

410

Participants Housed
by ICM

51

Victim Awareness Sessions
Completed by CES

111

Our team helps clients work through an immediate crisis and navigate the legal systems. They provide support for police intervention, medical appointments, and social services issues such as obtaining stable housing, and supports them in all aspects of their lives.

HOPE

23

CLIENTS SERVED

67

APPLICATIONS TO PROGRAM

Hope Program is designed for women, families, and gender-diverse individuals who have accessed emergency domestic violence shelters but need more time and support before moving into permanent housing. Designed to be a transitional period for 6-18 months, the program offers a safe and secure environment where participants can feel comfortable and supported in their own space. There are opportunities for knowledge-sharing and access to resources that help prepare clients for independent living and support long-term stability.

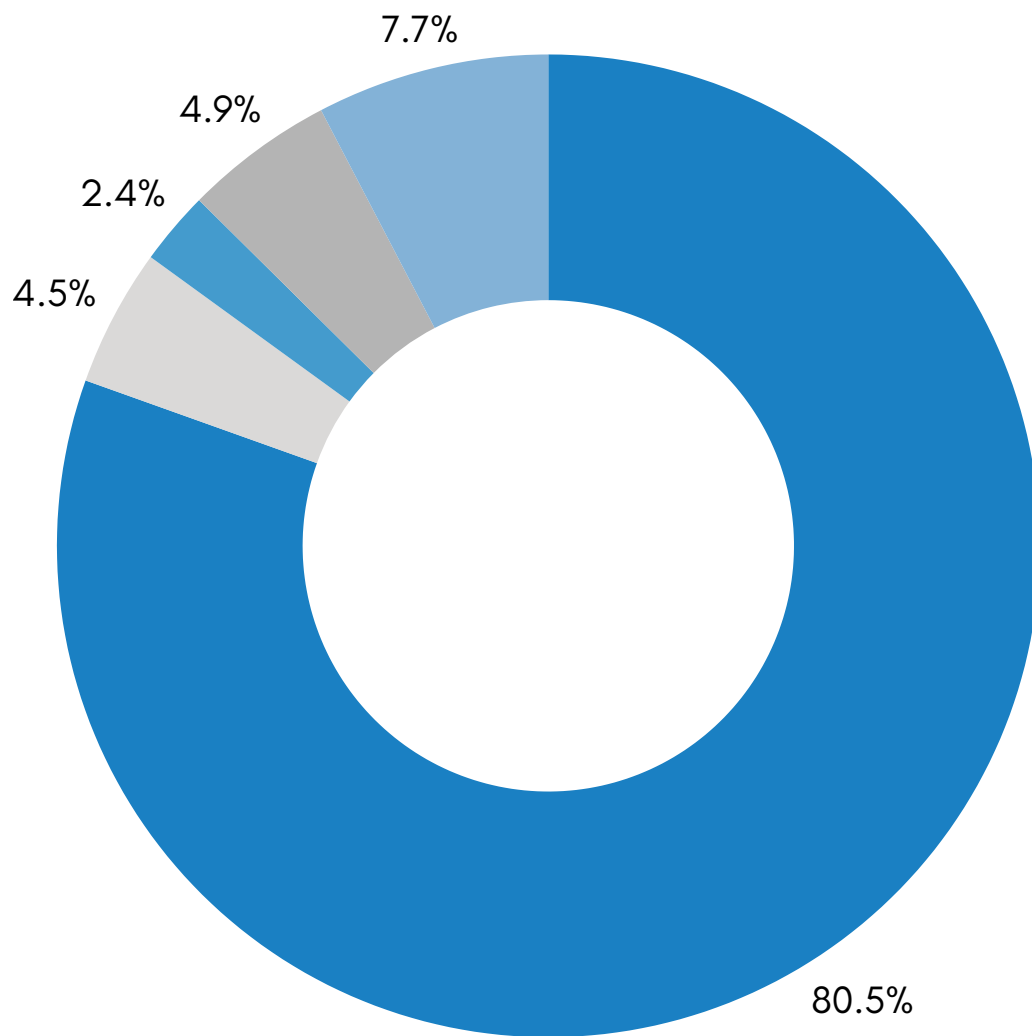
The program has fostered meaningful connections, helping to build a strong sense of belonging and community. With an extended-stay option of up to 18 months, clients are provided the time needed to find suitable independent housing that fits both their budget and family needs.

In the first year of operation, the data demonstrates through waitlists and ongoing capacity limits, that the program is responding to a much needed support in the community.

12

CLIENTS TRANSITIONED INTO MARKET HOUSING

FINANCIAL REVENUE



Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

- Grants
- Fundraising
- Donations
- Fees For Service
- Other Incomes

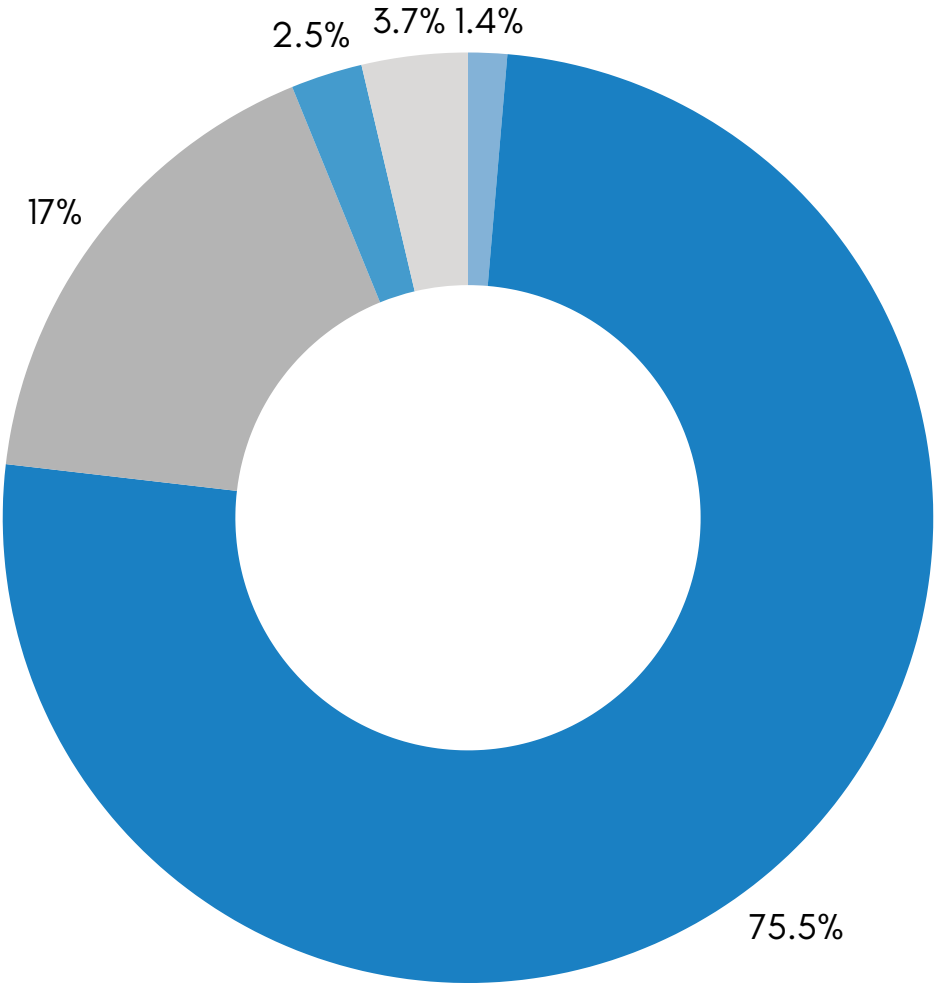
total. \$3,440,334

FINANCIAL EXPENSES

Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

- Salaries & Honorariums
- Operations & Utilities
- Fees & Services
- Fundraising Expenses
- Interest & Amortizations

total. \$3,289,632



To view the complete audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2026, visit our website at <https://ywcaethbridge.com/annual-reports-financials/>

THANK YOU

COMPANIES, FOUNDATIONS, and SOCIETIES

Charities Aid Foundation Canada - Cybergangs

Community Foundation Lethbridge + Southwestern Alberta - Joyce Arnold Endowment Fund

Community Foundation Lethbridge + Southwestern Alberta - Dr Susan A McDaniel Fund

Seasons Retirement Community

Lomond Community Club

Chubb Insurance Company of Canada - Charity Challenge Golf Tournament

Purple Carrot Health Foods & Wellness Inc

The Toronto-Dominion Bank

Airport Pick-a-Part - Community Car Program

Shoppers' Foundation for Women's Health - Giving Shelter Campaign 2025

United Nurses of Alberta

ATCO

Carlson Automotive

Gift Funds Canada - Pauline Ramage

RBC Foundation – IWD Foundation 2025

Abundance - Hilda Withage Gifting Fund

Galt School of Nursing Alumnae Society

Romulus & Remus Italian Canadian Club

Gift Funds Canada - Beverly Herring

Unifor Local 4050

Community of Christ

Buddhist Temple

First United Church

GirlGang YQL

AirTech

Thank you to the incredible community members and groups for their generous item donations, estimated at more than \$40,000, which support our ongoing operations!

DONORS, INDIVIDUAL

Patricia Anderson
J David Alexander
Rosemary Allan
Willemijn Appels
Cecilia Atkinson
Lind Barr
Natasha Birnie-Browne
Justin Blum
Allison Carlson
Paul J. & Bernice F. Carrier
Dayna Daniels
Mavis J. Davidson
Michaela Dilworth
Kelly Dyck
Robert & Lindsay Engen
Irene Esau
George Evelyn
Glenda E. Everett
Hayley Feyter
Maria Fitzpatrick
Julia Fletcher
Michael Gerken
Neil Gilbert
Stephanie Grace
Gregory Hales
Georgean Harper
Lindsey Herter
Marlene Holst-Burke
Stanley Kent
Leona King
Debbie Kovacs
Rebecca Kramer
Vito Lam
Dianne Legrandeur
Kimi Livingston

DONORS, INDIVIDUAL

Jim Lockhart
Julie & Leonard Lorenze
Joan Macdougall
Jessica Marcotte
Madison Marsh
Erin Mason
Maureen Mather
Robert & Diane Mckenzie
Susan Mclean
Donna Nixon
Cheryl O'Donnell
Lorraine Paskuski
Taunya Pickles
James Piper
Gordon Pommen
Lucelle Prindle
Gail Raaschou
Theodore & Cheryl Salken
Paige Sauter
Jenn Schmidt-Rempel
Terrell Sprecher
Rob Taylor
Diane & Richard Traber
Nicole Van Rootselaar
George & Carole Virtue
Amber Voytko
Shawn Walker
Dionne Walsh
Richard & Gloria Wendel
Glenna Westwood
Kira Whitten
Mary Wilson
Cherri Wolcott
Luanne & Barry Wolsey
Brent Yamamoto
Barbara Jean Zobell

GALA SPONSORS

1st Choice Savings
Airau Creative
Airtech Group
Andrew Sheret Ltd.
Avail CPA
Bakers Appliances
Bezooyen Contracting
Dennis' Dirtworx
Dominion Lending Centres
Ducan Industries
Exteriors by Leroy & Darcy
Floor Designs Inc.
Foremost Agencies
Grassroots Realty
High Level Law
Jerelle.Co
JunkAway
Kasko Cattle
Lethbridge Polytechnic
Little Caesar's Pizza
Metaconex Inc.
MNP
Nakamura Farms
North & Company Law
Offices
Pillar To Post Home
Inspections
Ramton Homes Ltd.
RBC Mortgage Specialists
Reside Custom Builders
Rossco's Tree Service
Schwartz Reliance
Insurance and Registry
Sold On Lethbridge
Commercial Division

PARTNERS



ADVOCACY



DONORS





2026 has been a year of transformation, both internally and in the community.

As a team, we have grown and developed, learned new ways of being, and brought our differences to the table in ways that make us strong.

This work belongs to all of us. To our staff and volunteers, our Board of Directors, our donors and community partners, and to those who trust us to walk alongside them during some of life's most difficult moments, thank you. Your commitment and belief in this work continue to make a lasting difference in our community.

THANK YOU

MEMBERSHIP



Your \$20 annual voting membership does more than just provide you with YWCA member benefits; that \$20 is enough to provide a woman coming into shelter with a welcome package that includes basic items to make her feel more comfortable.

VOTING MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Exclusive access to members pricing on event tickets
- Receive our quarterly newsletter
- Vote at the Annual General Meeting
- Join the Board or a Committee to help guide the organization
- Be the first to know about events, opportunities, and achievements

**Non-Voting Memberships are open for men,
boys, and girls under 18.
\$10 ANNUALLY**

