



ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

THE ROAD AHEAD

www.victimsupport.ca

403-885-3355 • 4405 South Street, Blackfalds RCMP Detachment



- MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT, CYNTHIA EDWARDS -

It was another year of uncertainty and challenge for all of us on many fronts, yet our Unit remained strong, capable and committed, and expanded its support from the community.

Our Victim Services Program is in Flux

September 2020 saw us still awaiting detailed information from Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (JSG) regarding the allocation of the majority of the huge surplus (at least \$50 million) in the Victims of Crime Fund, caused by years of unexplained and undeclared cutbacks. An announcement earlier in 2019 allocated a small portion of the surplus (\$4 million) to increase funding to police-based victim services in Alberta's major cities.

The status of funding for rural police-based units was to be announced but was superseded by the announcement of yet another victim services review undertaken by a new provincial government. That review has been completed, we're told, but the results have yet to be announced or communicated to us. The government continues to speak strongly and often of its support for victims of rural crime; one encouraging sign is that our JSG grant funding has been extended (although not increased) to March 31, 2023. But at this point we're still guessing at what the final operational picture will look like for Victim Services.

We Adapted to the Reality of COVID-19

The ubiquitous coronavirus had a major impact on our Unit. It affected our way of operating, our membership and our revenue. Yet thanks to the terrific support of our staff and our volunteer Advocates, we adapted our operations and continued to provide client services throughout the year.

A Special Thank You

A special thank-you to all members of our team, who despite the challenges and hardships faced over the last year, have shown their dedication and commitment within our organization.

My deep condolences to any of you who suffered personal loss due to this virus.

We were unable to carry out our two annual fundraiser Charity Check Stops in December of 2020. However, we began receiving annual per capita funding from the Town of Blackfalds and secured other sponsorships. These funds have helped compensate for the temporary loss of our major fundraising events and have strengthen our financial position. We're very grateful for this vital support from our community!

In spite of the uncertainly and challenge, we were blessed with significant strengths: dedicated and talented staff who responded with resolve and adaptability to the challenges of working during this tumultuous time, committed and flexible volunteer Advocates, and a strong board. In 2020-21 we offered exemplary service to our clients, we strengthened and supported each other, and we once again exemplified our motto of **Onward and Upward!**

Sincerely,
Board President

Cynthia Edwards





- MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GLORIA DERKSEN -

I continue to be inspired by the volunteers and staff of Central Alberta Victim & Witness Support Society, who are the very heart of Victim Services.

They bring their passion and commitment to the residents of the communities we serve each and every day providing trauma informed care. This team responds by helping clients cope and recover after experiencing crime and tragedy.

Whether it's the provision of extra safety measures, access to counseling and treatment, supporting families as they cope with the aftermath of the loss of a loved one or walking alongside a victim through the difficult criminal justice system, this team responded to over 60 requests for service monthly. That equals 1226 new clients served in addition to clients ongoing from the prior year(s).

This, in spite of the ongoing Covid-19 challenges and restrictions, from being "locked down" to "open for the summer" the staff and crisis advocates continued to give it their all!

Once again Domestic/Family Violence files were the highest file type. We saw a substantial increase in trials, preliminary hearings and sentencing.

The future of victim serving programs in Alberta is unknown with continued financial uncertainties in government funding. It's been a year of uncertainty that was weathered by staff and volunteers with confidence and flexibility. Our hope is to see sustainable, focused funding for this vital service to continue.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the Board of Directors, volunteer advocates, family and

friends of VSU, for your valuable contributions and for helping to make a positive difference in so many lives. I also gratefully acknowledge our grant funders and other financial supporters who have contributed to "The Road Ahead Campaign".

In closing, after 15 years with CAVWSS, I will be leaving to begin the next chapter in my life. This time with victim services has gone by quickly. It has been busy and very rewarding! The immense knowledge gained over the years, the valued friendships made, and the memories – too many to count!

I wish CAVWSS the very best to carry on this amazing program with the same passion to serve our clients well. It's been a true honour to be of service.

With the help and support of each other and the extended community, we will continue to make a difference for people when they most need it.

Sincerely,
Executive Director

Gloria Derksen



CAVWSS MISSION STATEMENT:

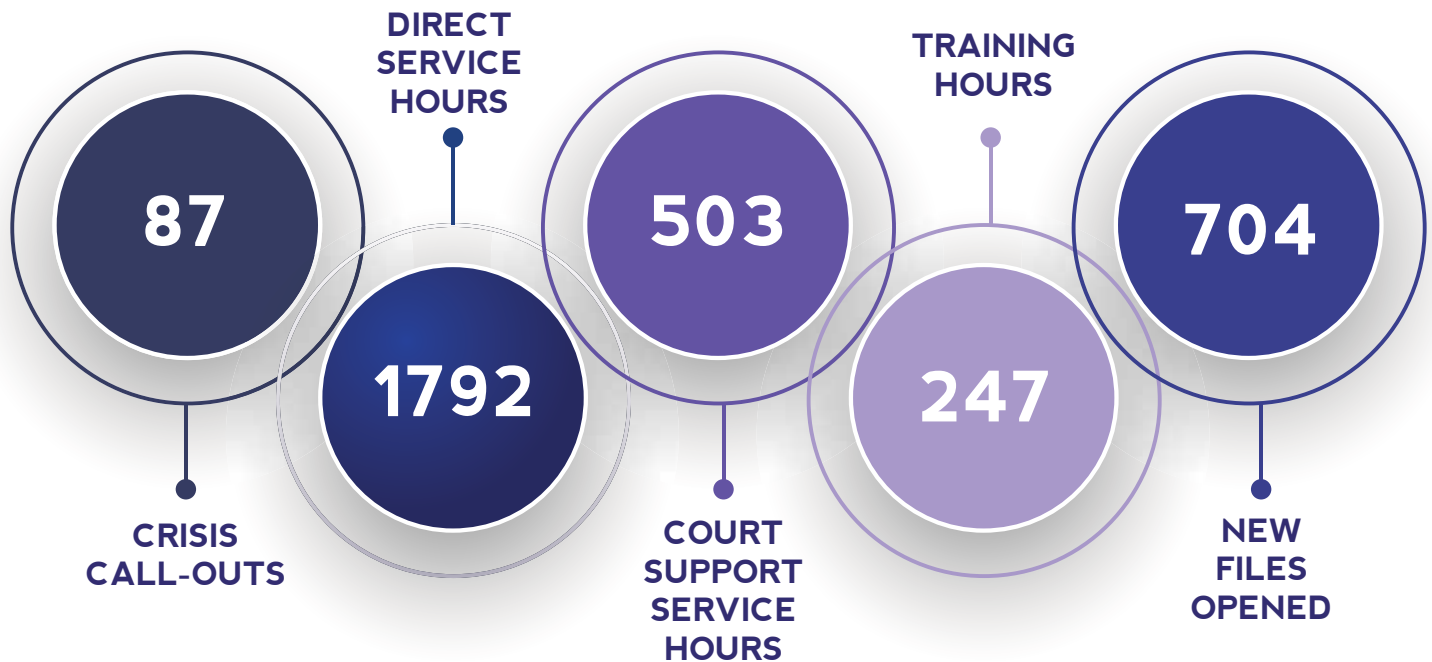
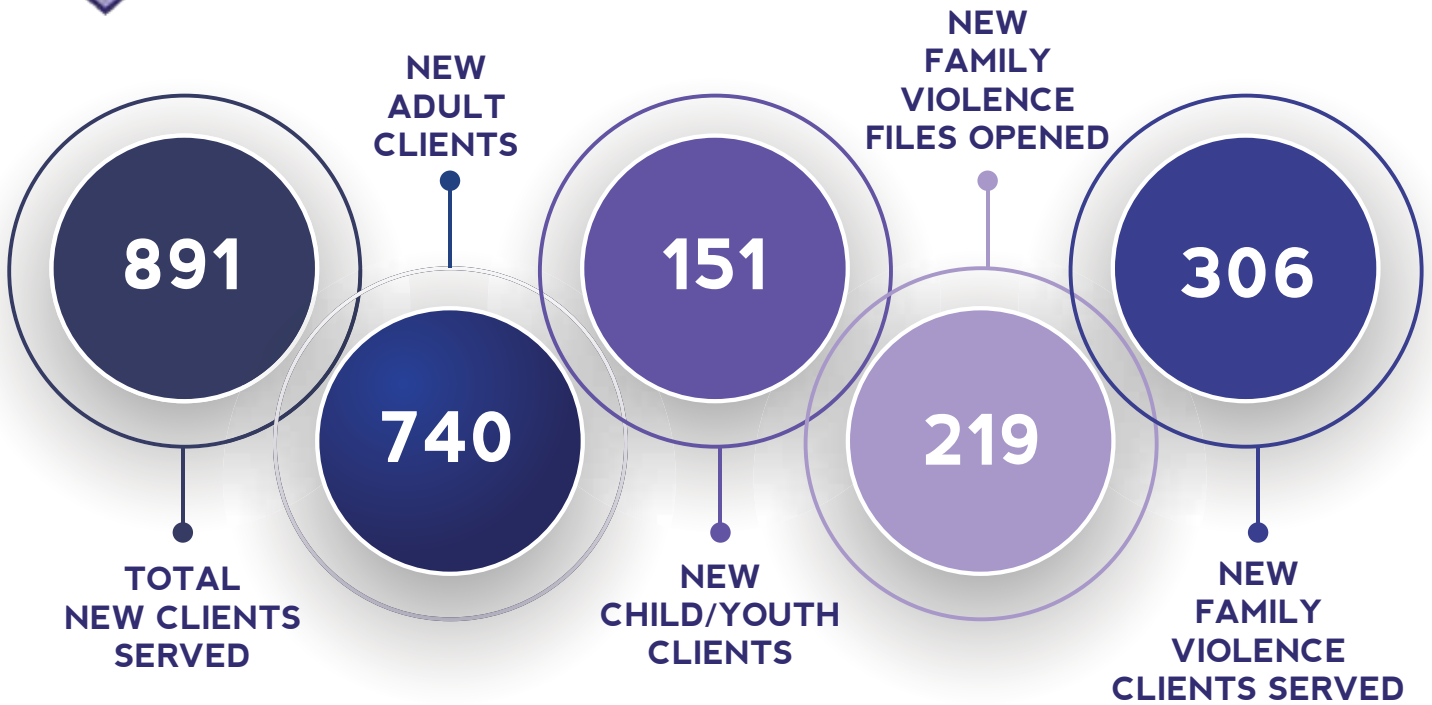
Our mission is to equip clients to engage positively and productively in their community through our professional and compassionate provision of direct support, information, referral and education.

CAVWSS VISION STATEMENT:

We assist in bridging the gap from hurt to hope to empower survivors of crime and tragedy to take control of their lives.



- 2020/2021 STATS AND COMMUNITY IMPACT -



Note: These numbers reflect our last fiscal year cases only and do not include ongoing management of case files from previous years.



HOMICIDE

SUDDEN DEATH

ASSAULT

FAMILY VIOLENCE

FRAUD, THEFT, ID THEFT

BREAK & ENTER

VANDALISM

SERIOUS MOTOR
VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

FIRE

MULTI-
CASUALTY
DISASTER

INDUSTRIAL
ACCIDENTS

SCHOOL
CRISIS



**SERVING
COMMUNITIES
THROUGHOUT
CENTRAL
ALBERTA**

BLACKFALDS

SPRINGBROOK

SUMMER VILLAGE OF GULL LAKE

JOFFRE

CLIVE

RED DEER COUNTY

LACOMBE COUNTY



2020-2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE

GRANT INCOME **\$145,580**

FUNDRAISING **\$56,803**

TOTAL: \$202,383

EXPENSES

DIRECT PROGRAM DELIVERY **\$167,166**

PROGRAM AWARENESS **\$3,751**

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT **\$9,729**

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION **\$10,930**

TOTAL: \$191,576



WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? HOW YOU CAN HELP...

How to Donate

You can help us continue our work in your community by;

- *Making a financial donation*
- *Becoming a corporate sponsor*
- *Donating goods and services*
- *Contributing to and/or attending our annual events*

We accept donations as cheques payable to Central Alberta Victim & Witness Support Society.

Cheques can be mailed to:

Central Alberta Victim & Witness Support Society, PO Box 1780, Blackfalds, AB, T0M 0J0

To make a cash donation you can call **1-403-885-3355**. Contact our funding development coordinator today to learn more about how you can help by emailing **marketing@victimsupport.ca**.

Donate Now Online!

Visit **www.victimsupport.ca** and click "**Donate Now**" on the home page or visit our donations page directly to find the link to donate through ATB Cares!

We receive 100% of your donation and ATB will match 15% of every dollar donated!



CAVWSS Wish List:

Our organization is always collecting items or gift cards that could be used to assist victims in times of crisis such as;

Grocery Gift Cards | Baby Items | Gas Cards | Cell Phone Cards (pay as you go minutes) |

Taxi or Uber Vouchers | Gift Cards to Cover School Lunches/Meals | Nonperishable Kid-Friendly Snacks

New Blankets | New Stuffies/Toys/Activities for children | Prepaid Credit Cards

CAWSS CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chair

Cynthia Edwards



Vice Chair

Lynne Mulder



Secretary

Melodie Stol



Treasurer

Katherine Barron



RCMP Liaison

St. Sgt. Dan Martin



Director

Karen Smilar

Our Board of Directors is an exciting group of individuals who are committed to the operations and success of the Central Alberta Victim & Witness Support Society and the communities that we support.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our board, visit our website at: www.victimsupport.ca to view board member requirements and to find our on-line application form.

Don't know where to turn?



We can help 24 Hour Crisis Support

The Canadian Victims Bill of Rights defines a victim as an individual who has suffered physical or emotional harm, economic loss or property damage as a result of a crime committed in Canada.

Victims of crime and tragedy are often overwhelmed, confused and unsure of how to deal with the events and procedures which follow. Our organization offers support, programs and services such as court orientation and accompaniment.

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**THANK-YOU
TO OUR STAFF,
ADVOCATES,
BOARD MEMBERS,
VOLUNTEERS,
COMMUNITY PARTNERS,
DONORS, SPONSORS
AND SUPPORTERS!**



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