



# Report to the Community

2020-2021



calgary & area child advocacy centre

# A Year Like No Other

We are pleased to present our Impact Report for 2020-2021. It was certainly a year like no other as Covid-19 struck the world with full force. The pandemic has dominated our lives and had a tragic impact on communities and economies around the globe. It forced us to change how we work and interact, now and perhaps even in the future. And yet, despite the many challenges, it has been a time of renewed collaboration, innovation, and growth at the Calgary and Area Child Advocacy Centre (CCAC). As always, when transitions and challenges arise, we embrace them as new opportunities to build toward a greater future.

## Our Multidisciplinary Team

We have been so fortunate to witness the finest examples of courage, collaboration, and discovery inside the walls of the CCAC this past year. The entire team came together to strategize, make decisions, and share resources, expertise, and knowledge, so we could continue delivering critical support to children and families, while ensuring the safety of staff and all those we serve.

We marked this past year with all the CCAC's core partners renewing their commitment to working together as an integrated team with a new five-year memorandum of understanding. We are grateful for the collaboration, dedication, and expertise of that multidisciplinary team of partners, made up of **Alberta Health Services, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Calgary Police Service, Children's Services, and Royal Canadian Mounted Police.**

## Supporting Families

Knowing that many vulnerable families struggle during times of crisis, the CCAC jumped into action to secure and offer as much additional support as we could. Thanks to funding from Department of Justice Canada, we were able to enhance services for children and families with the addition of relief staff to our Victim Support team. This helped ensure that families received faster services and more support.

With coordinated funding through the City of Calgary and Government of Alberta, we were able to provide \$50,000 in essential items to the people we serve, to assist with material needs that were not available in other ways in the community. We received an additional \$100,000 in funding from the Government of Alberta to provide added mental health support for children and caregivers – we know that children are more likely to be successful when they are surrounded by healthy caregivers.

Thanks to a mom whose family was once supported by the CCAC, we also introduced a special fund to help parents and families who are unable to access critical resources, such as legal counsel and counselling services. This fund has already provided support for 7 children and youth.

## A Commitment to Diversity

Diversity is our strength, but we know there is always so much more work we can do to become stronger allies and advocates, and to better serve our communities. We took the first step in this important work by partnering with the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society to carry out a cultural audit at the centre. With the findings from that audit, we began developing a strategy for how we will prioritize cultural responsiveness and embed Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion into the core of our work.

Strengthening our relationships with Indigenous communities was also a key priority. Last summer, we had the great honour of being invited to Tsuuti'ina Nation's Chief and Council Meeting for a signing of a revised memorandum of understanding with the Nation. There, we committed to working cooperatively with Tsuuti'ina, and making connections to ensure the Nation has full access to the services provided by the CCAC.







## A Community of Support

Remarkable individuals, organizations, community groups, and businesses stepped up to support the CCAC during a most challenging year. That support has been a lifeline to us and to the children, youth, and families we serve.

The words ‘thank you’ just do not seem big enough to express our deep appreciation for our funders, donors, community partners, and our fellow child advocacy centres, who came together in extraordinary ways, in an extraordinary time, to respond to the needs of vulnerable children and families. Likewise, it is impossible to show an appropriate level of gratitude to the CCAC’s core partners, board, staff, and volunteers for their dedication, resourcefulness, and kindness – this team’s enthusiasm to improve the lives of children and youth is unmatched.

## Lighting the Path Forward

Now, more than ever, we need a compelling, hopeful vision for the future. Very soon, we will be taking a bold step for our child advocacy centre by introducing a new name and brand. With this new identity, we will drive conversations and awareness about child maltreatment, and work to build an informed, engaged community that responds collectively to child abuse. We will also continue to work with other child and youth advocacy centres in Alberta and across the country, towards our bigger vision that everywhere in Canada, children and families have access to the integrated wraparound support of a child advocacy centre.

The future truly looks bright, and we are so appreciative for all of you who are on this important mission with us, building towards a future where all children and youth are safe.

## 2020-2021 Board of Directors

Nancy Foster, Chair  
Daniel Cheng  
Paul Cook

Trevor Daroux  
Margaret Fullerton  
Suzanne Kendall

Debra Mauro  
Tara McCool  
Toni Morkin

Melinda Park  
Trevor Peters  
Gary Strother

# 2020-2021 Snapshot

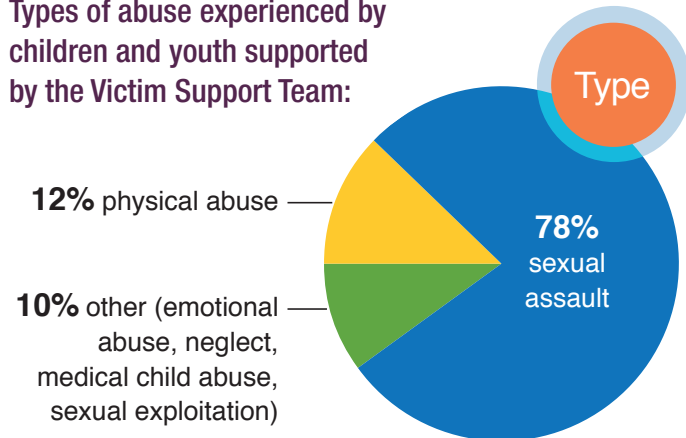
## Infants/Children/Youth Assessed

The CCAC supported **1,977 children and youth** who experienced abuse.

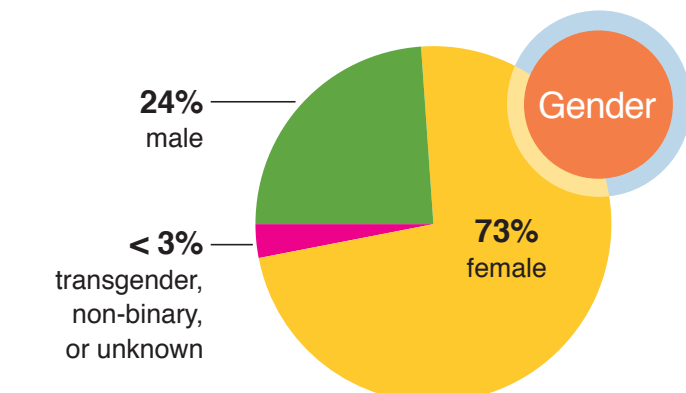
## Victim Support

The victim support team assisted **1,554 children, youth and family members** with timely and critical information, resources, education, and support. Additionally, the team continued to support **over 600 children**, youth, and families from previous years.

**Types of abuse experienced by children and youth supported by the Victim Support Team:**



**Of the children and youth assessed:**



## Child Life

Our Child Life Specialist helped **697 children and youth**, ensuring that when they came to the centre, they felt informed, comfortable, and supported.

## Volunteers

The CCAC's dedicated volunteers are an integral part of the team. **95 volunteers**, including Victim Support Advocates, Child Space volunteers, dogs and handlers from PALS, knitters, quilters, board members, and organizations in the community, contributed close to **10,000 hours** of service.

## Facility Dogs

Facility Dogs Axel and Webster supported children and families through **48 interviews, 37 prosecution meetings, and 19 trials**.

## Forensic Interviews

**689 Forensic Interviews** were conducted by the Forensic Interview Specialist, Calgary Police Service, Children's Services and the RCMP, an average of **98 interviews per month**.

The CCAC is building forensic interviewing capacity across Alberta through training of professionals and peer reviews that provide feedback for those who conduct forensic interviews in rural communities. The CCAC's Forensic Interview Specialist led **13 peer review sessions** with partners this past year.

## Pre-natal Outreach Support Team (POST)

POST provides early support for the most vulnerable and high-risk pregnant people. This past year, **226** individuals were supported through the POST program; **56%** required police support; and **45%** of clients increased their support system because of POST involvement.

More than **400 individuals** registered for the **POST Perinatal Virtual Conference**. Attendees signed-in from all over the world, including Malaysia, India, and the USA.

## Education

With the support of Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School District, we ensure educators are connected to the CCAC, have the support and resources they need, and that children and youth who come to the centre are also supported in their schools.

**300 school staff** received professional development from the CCAC; **14 high schools** participated in the final year of the **Youth Champions** program with **10 youth, 24 teachers and counsellors**, and **14 school administrators**.

# Partners United in a Shared Vision

## Core Partners:

**Alberta Justice & Solicitor General**

**Alberta Health Services**

**Calgary Police Service**

**Children's Services**

**Royal Canadian Mounted Police**

**Alberta Health Services** Child Abuse Medical Stream provided support to **222 files** involving child abuse. This includes **30 clinics** at the CCAC as well as **consults** with professionals, photo and file reviews, inpatient consults, and case conferences. The Therapy Team, composed of social workers, psychologists, and therapists, completed **over 190 intakes** for children and youth needing specialized therapeutic interventions.

**Children's Services** intervened in **1,606 cases** in partnership with Calgary Police Service on three specialized teams: Joint Investigative Child Abuse Team (JICAT), Alberta Vulnerable Infant Response Team (AVIRT) and Child at Risk Response Team (CARRT).

Working out of the CCAC, the detectives from the Child Abuse Unit of **Calgary Police Service** investigated **674 files** of reported child abuse.

**RCMP** provided support, consultation, and forensic interviewing to detachments throughout Southern Alberta on more than **460 files**.

**Prosecutors** are on site at the CCAC for trial preparations, case consultations and meetings with partners and families. They work with justice system stakeholders and the community to promote safe communities.

## A Centre of Excellence

This past year, the CCAC successfully launched our **Remote Testimony Room**. The room was designed to give children and youth a safe space to testify for the court while being fully supported by the CCAC's multi-disciplinary team of professionals. Following several successful testimonies for both the Queens Court of Alberta as well as Provincial Court, the centre added an additional remote testimony room to meet the growing demand for this important service.

*"September 14, 2020 marked the first-ever time that a child testified from the teleconference room at the Calgary & Area Child Advocacy Center in the Albertan Court of Queen's Bench. I cannot emphasize to you enough how effective this was. The child victim in this case was able to testify from the comfort of the Advocacy Center, accompanied by a support dog and person. The technology worked flawlessly. After the child testified, the Accused plead guilty. Needless to say, it was a resounding success. I am certain this room will continue to pay dividends as it relates to the administration of justice."* – **Matt Dalidowicz, Prosecutor**



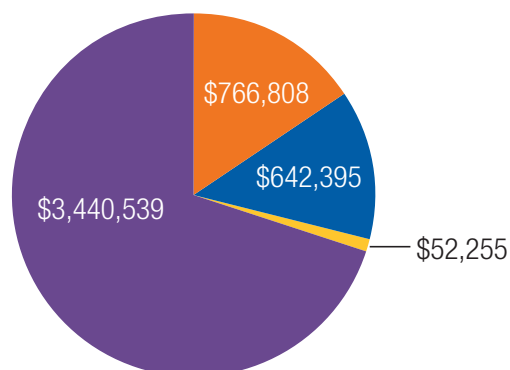


# Financial Highlights 2020-2021

## Statement of Financial Position

| as at March 31                           |                  |                  |
|--|------------------|------------------|
|  | 2021             | 2020             |
|  | \$               | \$               |
| <b>Assets</b>                            |                  |                  |
| Current                                  |                  |                  |
| Cash                                     | 1,590,119        | 1,704,194        |
| Short-term investments                   | 3,711,781        | 4,959,036        |
| Inventory                                | -                | 16,867           |
| Accounts receivable                      | 260,981          | 341,909          |
| Prepaid expenses                         | 32,539           | 13,772           |
|  | <b>5,595,420</b> | <b>7,035,778</b> |
| Long Term                                |                  |                  |
| Long-term investments                    | 1,402,480        | -                |
| Property, equipment and rights           | 644,164          | 955,380          |
|  | <b>2,046,644</b> | <b>955,380</b>   |
|  | <b>7,642,064</b> | <b>7,991,158</b> |
| <b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>        |                  |                  |
| Current                                  |                  |                  |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 367,364          | 250,254          |
| Deferred contributions                   | 680,963          | 1,236,754        |
|  | <b>1,048,327</b> | <b>1,487,008</b> |
| Net assets                               |                  |                  |
| Invested in capital assets               | 644,164          | 955,380          |
| Unrestricted net assets                  | 5,949,573        | 5,548,770        |
|  | <b>6,593,737</b> | <b>6,504,150</b> |
|  | <b>7,642,064</b> | <b>7,991,158</b> |

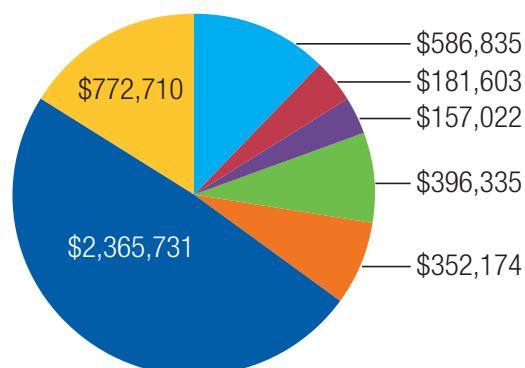
Complete audited financial statements are available by contacting the Calgary & Area Child Advocacy Centre.



### Revenues

**\$4,901,997**

- Donations
- Partner contributions
- Grant revenue
- Other income



### Operating Expenditures

**\$4,812,410**

- Salaries and benefits
- Occupancy costs
- Programs
- Advertising and communication
- IT support
- Other (office, professional fees, training & development)
- Amortization



From the very **first time** I went to the CCAC, I felt like **people cared**. There were people who **listened** to me. It was **hard to talk** about my story of sexual abuse - I am haunted by what **happened to me**.

However, I am so **grateful** to have a place where I know **I'm believed** and will help me **feel better**.

— Lauren, 13

## Mission

Our multi-disciplinary approach helps children, youth, and families who have been impacted by abuse, supports their healing, seeks to stop the cycle of abuse and is dedicated to bringing perpetrators to justice.

## Vision

We envision a world where every child is safe. We work to empower those who are impacted by child abuse to lead healthy and productive lives by creating a community that responds collectively to abuse.



**calgary & area child advocacy centre**

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[calgarycac.ca](http://calgarycac.ca)