



calgary & area child advocacy centre

**2017 - 2018**

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# **Report to the Community**



**2017-2018**

## **Board Members**

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# Together, we have a greater impact in protecting children and youth.



“ Our first five years have focused on developing our integrated practice model, instilling a culture of collaboration among partners, and constantly improving our services through communication, best practice, and continuous improvement. As the CAC transitions into its next phase, we will continue to **enhance and refine our integrated model**, increasing efficacy and working to set the standard for excellence in practice, education, training and research.

To continue leading child abuse prevention, advocacy, and investigative treatment efforts provincially and nationally, we're working with our government partners to **develop a sustainable funding model** which will allow us to transition from our foundational years to a phase of stability and excellence. The support and leadership of our government partners as well as corporate and private donations is essential to allowing us to impact the lives of thousands of families.

As the CAC embarks on its next chapter, we are working to **cultivate a vibrant, healthy, cohesive work culture** to equip our staff to continue providing exceptional service to children, youth and their families, while simultaneously supporting employee health and wellness.

We've made these strategic directions our focus moving forward to ensure long-term sustainability of the CAC, our integrated practice, and most importantly, the life-changing assessment, investigation, and support we provide families. Five years from now, we hope to be working toward stopping the cycle of abuse altogether and empowered those who have been impacted by child abuse to lead healthy, productive, fulfilling lives.

**John Dielwart and Debra Mauro**

*Co-Chairs, Calgary & Area Child Advocacy Centre  
Board of Directors*

# Here are some of the highlights from our last year.

The CAC has always provided integrated services at the point of triage, when cases are first assessed. We saw an opportunity to continue to strengthen our approach by ensuring ongoing coordination amongst our partners and providing additional services from our Victim Support Coordinators. As part of our new pilot project, Victim Support and Child Life coordinate meetings and greet families when they come to the Centre for interviews with RCMP. We're evaluating the strengths and challenges of this approach to ensure we're delivering the most effective evidence-based and trauma-informed services to visitors.

## **Victim Support Program**

The Victim Support Program continues to see growth, due to increased awareness among our partner agencies as well as further collaborative initiatives.

The team meets weekly to review and assess all files to ensure that the families receive follow-up support as needed. Victim Support has also begun to take part in the daily triage of cases assessed by the CAC to better integrate into the team.

## **Prenatal Outreach Support Team (POST)**

POST provides critical care to at-risk pregnant persons along with new mothers and their infants. They play a key role in working with partners and other community agencies.

This past year they presented at the National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder conference in Calgary. The focus of the conference was "Prevention"; POST remains one of the few programs in Calgary focused on prevention, building relationships with vulnerable pregnant persons, and connecting them with resources in the city of Calgary.

## **Indigenous Liaison Program**

We continue to offer services under the Indigenous Liaison program, which includes direct client service to families from the Tsuut'ina, Siksika, Stoney Nakoda and Blood Tribe First Nations.

This work has been possible through consistent collaboration with existing First Nations Victim Services Units, to cultivate trusting, effective working relationships. Our hope is to continue enhancing our program to better meet the needs of our First Nation children, families and communities who have been impacted by child abuse.

## **Best Furry Friends (BFF) Program**

In July 2017 the Facility Dog Program was renamed the "Best Furry Friends Program" (BFF program). The BFF Program has continued to evolve and grow since its creation; a formal plan is being created to support families throughout the court process while also addressing the current capacity of the Victim Support Program.

The CAC was involved in a training program for Victim Service Dogs and their handlers in August 2017; it was a great success.



## Research and Evaluation Framework

Exploratory discussions are underway with other Canadian Child Advocacy Centres, researchers in Calgary, and SKCAC's Strategic Leadership Team to identify a research and evaluation framework that is relevant and useful. Ongoing evaluation of our programs remains a priority, so we can ensure that we understand the impact of the integrated services model in improving outcomes.

We are committed to measuring the immediate and long-term outcomes of our work. Our intention is to ensure the framework fits with the SKCAC's needs and encourages opportunities to leverage knowledge and expertise with other child advocacy centres across the province and country.

## Canadian Children's Charter

Two Youth Champions from Crescent Height High School joined CEO Sara Austin, along with 40 youth from across the country, and traveled to the National Summit for the Canadian Children's Charter in Ottawa in November 2017 to mark National Child Day.

They met with Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, visited the Prime Minister's office, met with leaders of charities, the private sector, and Parliamentarians. Together they created The Canadian Children's Charter: an urgent call to action to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of children.



We've assessed more than **7,500** children and youth since opening our doors in 2013.

On average, we see **133** kids each month;

we saw an average of **125** during the first 6 months of the year,

which increased to **141** in the last six months.

**60%** of our cases are assigned to two or more partners at triage – our integrated, daily case review meeting.

**60%**  **21%** 

**21%** involve three or more partners.



The majority of cases (**68%**) seen by our team are those of sexual abuse.

Calgary Police Service reported a **30%** increase in files in 2017.



Overall, **64%** of the children and youth we see are female, though that number decreased to **58%** in 2017/2018.



Most children we see are of school age (86%); the majority are between 4-7 and 12-15 years old.

Overall, 68% of the children who have experienced abuse are now experiencing other challenges in their lives, such as mental health issues, substance abuse, aggression or violence, self harm, suicidal ideation and / or criminal behaviour.



Many of the families we see also report presenting concerns (44%) which include domestic violence, child protection concerns, and substance use issues.

96% of the children we see know their abuser

66% of offenders are family members



- 43% of offenders are a parent or caregiver (including foster parents, step parents, and partners of a parent)
- 14% of offenders are peers
- 11% of offenders are siblings (including foster or step siblings)



18% of the files investigated by our team which went to court in 2017 resulted in a conviction with at least one charge.

## Leading Practices and National Standards

Discussions continued with the Zebra Centre in Edmonton and the Provincial Government to enhance services across Alberta through a provincial model that includes leading practices and the development of a national standards framework.

For example, we're working to determine the best approach to data collection for all provincial child advocacy centres to provide some comparatives and ensure that both government and other funders have accurate and consistent information from all centres.

## Forensic Interviewing

Our efforts to share best practices this year included offering ongoing training on forensic interviewing and the impacts of evidence to court judges, Crown Prosecutors, Calgary Police Service's sex crimes unit, the Calgary Sexual Assault Response Team, and more. Forensic interviewing courses are also offered by Dr. Sarah MacDonald to CAC staff, other child advocacy centres, and the RCMP.

## Bullbustin' 2017

Bullbustin' 2017 once again benefited the CAC, thanks to Cody and Rhonda Synder's incredible leadership and the support of generous sponsors and attendees. Volunteers sold 50/50 raffle tickets at the world-class PBR event, chatting with attendees about the work done at the CAC and raising money in the process.



## “Suspect Abuse; A School’s Role in Keeping Our Kids Safe”

To commemorate our first Child Abuse Prevention Month campaign, the SKCAC launched a toolkit across Alberta to empower teachers and school staff to recognize and report child abuse.

The need for this resource was identified following a survey conducted by the SKCAC that found school staff were not always confident in their ability to recognize and report abuse. “Suspect Abuse; A School’s Role in Keeping Our Kids Safe” will be rolled out across Alberta school districts through facilitated sessions, and will be provided to schools across the nation.



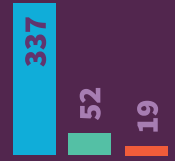
## National Child Advocacy Conference

In March 2018, we participated in the National Child Advocacy Conference and continued work on the proposed national guidelines with committees from across Canada, having worked on each standard to determine any proposed changes, etc.

Further revisions will be made and we look forward to the next iteration of the guidelines at the next conference in March 2019.



In 2017, there were **377** files of sexual assault, **52** files of sexual interference, and **19** files of invitation to touching.

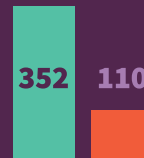


**527** new referrals and **353** new clients. **33%** redirected or declined services

We received **527** new referrals and **353** new clients for therapy services this year. Approximately **33%** were redirected or declined services from the CAC.

In 2017/2018 there were **352** referrals to the Prenatal Outreach Support Team (POST) program – an integrated harm

reduction program that builds relationships with vulnerable pregnant persons. As of March 31, 2018, POST had **110** active clients.



Our Alberta Vulnerable Infant Response Team (AVIRT) assessed **2,223** infants from birth to 3 months old in our first five years.



Since opening, there have been more than **14,253** visits to our Child Life Space (excluding evening and weekend visits.)



Children accessing therapy services (**76%**) make up the majority of visits to the Child Space.



# Statement of Financial Position

## As at March 31

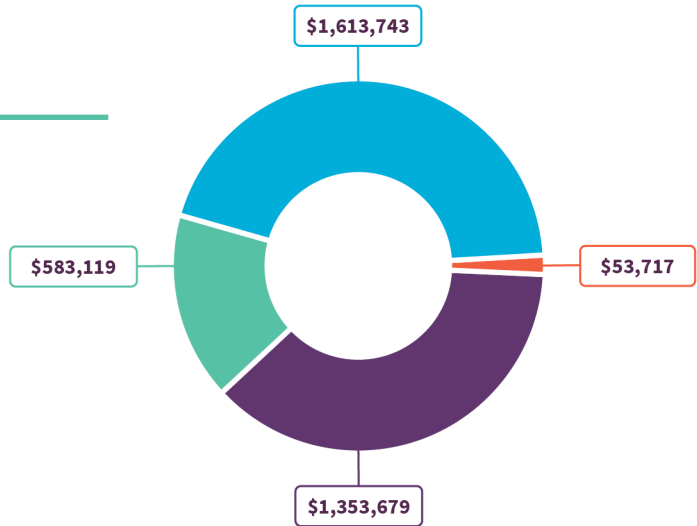
<b>Assets</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Current		
Cash	\$ 1,355,828	\$ 2,172,604
Short-term Investments	2,885,062	2,568,099
Account Receivable	293,594	427,299
Prepaid Expenses	22,374	49,719
	<b>4,556,858</b>	<b>5,217,721</b>
Long-term Investments	<b>403,235</b>	-
Capital Assets	<b>1,533,534</b>	1,902,047
	<b>1,936,769</b>	<b>1,902,047</b>
	<b>\$ 6,493,627</b>	<b>\$ 7,119,768</b>

<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 171,102	\$ 567,042
Deferred Contributions	1,048,263	839,935
	<b>1,219,365</b>	<b>1,406,977</b>
Net Assets		
Invested in Capital Assets	1,533,534	1,902,047
Unrestricted Net Assets	3,740,728	1,902,047
	<b>5,274,262</b>	<b>5,712,791</b>
	<b>\$ 6,493,627</b>	<b>\$ 7,119,768</b>



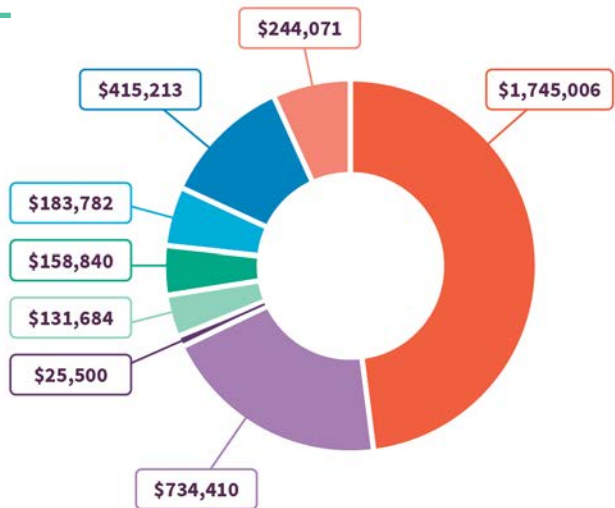
# Revenues

- Donations
- Partner Contributions
- Grant Revenue
- Other Income



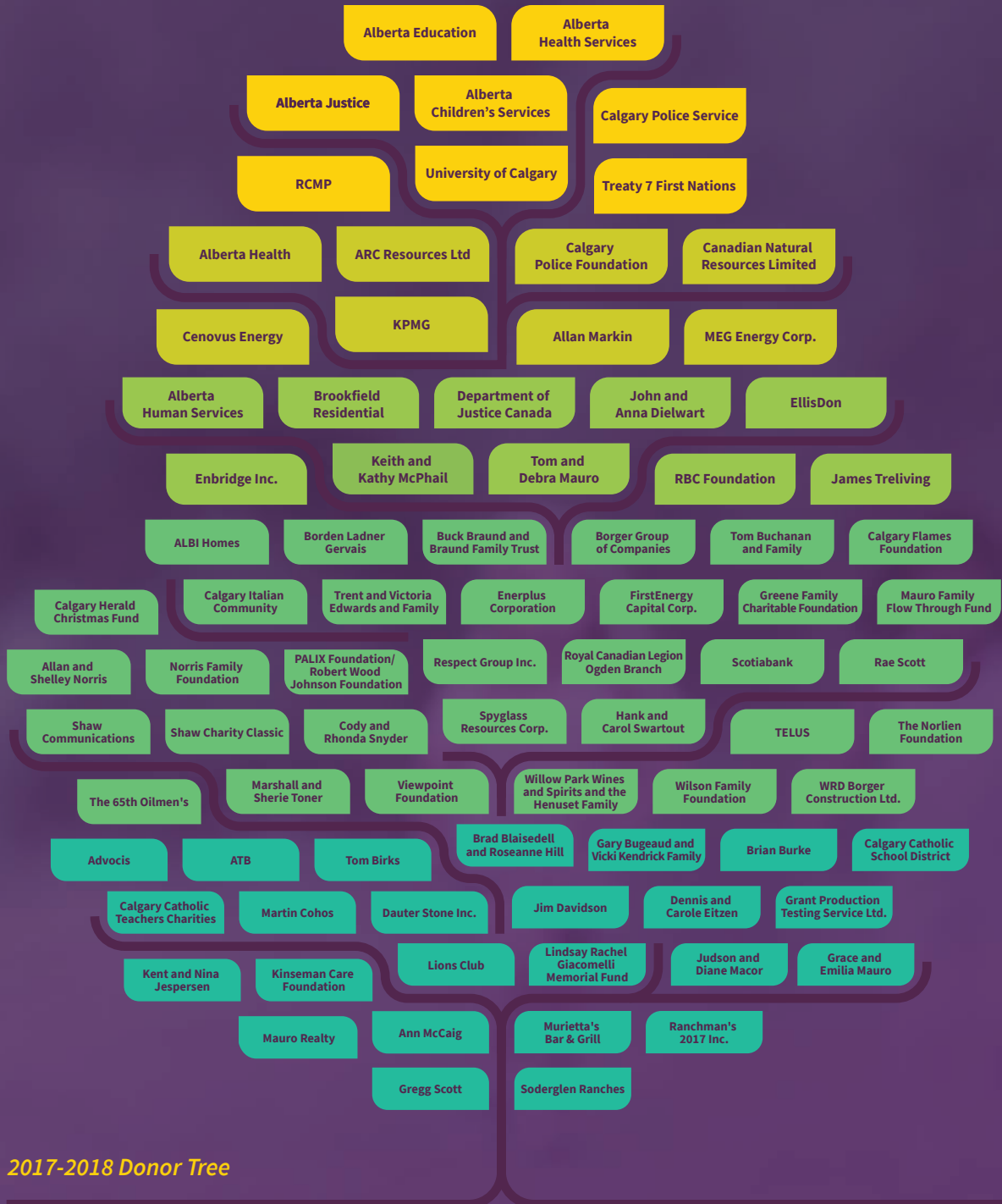
# Operating Expenditures

- Salaries and Benefits
- Other (Office, Training and Development, Travel)
- Professional and Consulting Fees
- IT Support
- Advertising and Communication
- Program Development and Evaluation
- Fundraising and Donations
- Occupancy Costs





# A community makes a difference



2017-2018 Donor Tree

- Partner Organizations
- Donors \$1M+
- Donors \$250,000 - \$999,000
- Donors \$50,000 - \$249,000
- Donors \$25,000 - \$49,000

