



**For Immediate Release**

## **Alberta YWCAs unite in the prevention of family violence across the province**

**November 1, 2023 – Calgary, AB** – As Alberta's Family Violence Prevention month begins, Alberta's four oldest women's organizations are renewing the call to end family violence. From homes to schools, workplaces to streets, family violence and domestic conflicts, along with their far-reaching impacts continue to rise – even though both are preventable. Throughout the month of November, the YWCAs of Alberta, including YWCA Banff, YW Calgary, YWCA Edmonton, and YWCA Lethbridge will utilize their social media platforms to illustrate how family violence can appear in the community, workplace, school, and home and where to find resources and supports.

In Calgary, Calgary Police Service reported that non-criminal domestic conflicts increased by 6% over the 5-year average as of the third quarter of 2023.\* While these conflicts may range in severity, they have lasting impact on all involved. YW Calgary continues to provide crisis intervention supports while offering prevention programs and services to address the core issues that lead to family violence.

“We see the impacts domestic violence has on the entire family every day. While we continue to provide safe refuge for those who have been impacted by domestic violence, we know how preventable the violence is.” Says Stacey Ashton, Manager, Shelter Services and Affordable Housing at YW Calgary. “By recognizing the early signs of domestic violence, we can support family, friends, neighbours, coworkers, and others to build healthy relationships. Recognition, awareness of resources, intervention, and support are key to safe and thriving communities!”

YW Calgary is hosting a wide variety of workshops and learning opportunities the month of November to bring awareness of the root causes of family violence and help build skills for healthy futures. Visit [YW Calgary Family Violence Prevention](#) for more information.

YWCA Banff has been providing services to those most vulnerable in the Bow Valley for over 100 years. Shelter, counselling, and support in re-building lives is only part of the solution. This past January, YWCA Banff established a new organizational structure that allocated resources and staff towards preventing violence in our community. Since then, YWCA Banff has been connecting with youth, businesses, and those in the tourism industry on the root causes of violence and how to become everyday upstanders. To learn more, please visit [ywcabanff.ca](http://ywcabanff.ca).

In Edmonton, the Edmonton Police Services receive 26 family violence related calls each day, totaling over 9,000 calls this year. These numbers make it the second most frequent reason for police calls, just behind theft under \$5,000 and vehicle collisions. Disturbingly, Edmonton had the highest number of domestic violence-related homicides in Alberta in 2020, with seven out of eighteen cases.

YWCA Edmonton offers crucial support, including expert psychological help, youth empowerment programs, and healing retreats for affected families and collaborates with grassroots organizations to provide culturally informed assistance for survivors and families affected by the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, & 2-Spirit crisis.

This year, YWCA Edmonton began providing remote counselling services to women in eight rural Alberta shelters, offering essential support for those impacted by violence, aiming to break the cycle of abuse



and promote mental well-being, healthy parenting, and positive relationships. Visit [ywcaofedmonton.org](http://ywcaofedmonton.org) to learn more about their services and how you can get involved.

YWCA Lethbridge & District provides support to women and children fleeing domestic violence with a focus on prevention, support, and advocacy. We recognize that the complexity of our clients and the number of family violence situations they are dealing with is constantly increasing. Shelter Services at YWCA Lethbridge & District provide direct and comprehensive support to survivors of domestic or sexual violence. That means one-on-one help for survivors and working to create community solutions that prevent domestic & sexual violence and promote healthy relationships.

We continue to support our clients through our 24/7/365 emergency shelter, our safe visitation program, our child trauma informed specialist and our amethyst program as well as many other programs and supportive services. To learn more about our programs and services, visit [ywcalethbridge.com](http://ywcalethbridge.com).

The 2023 YWCAs of Alberta Family Violence Prevention Month campaign will focus on a theme of safety at home, in our schools, at work and how together we can build resilient communities. Albertans can learn more about how to recognize the signs of family violence and where to access resources in their area through social media and their local YWCA website. Follow **#FVMP2023** for the province wide YWCA Family Violence Prevention Month campaign.

*\*Calgary Police Service, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2023 Statistical Report*

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#### **About YWCA Banff:**

YWCA Banff supports folks of any gender in the Bow Valley experiencing domestic and sexual violence, housing insecurity, mental health challenges, and poverty. In service of our vision for a thriving, equitable society, our core work is focused on providing a continuum of services and programs that: activate our community to end gender-based violence, provide a spectrum of sustainable housing solutions, and advance the rights of women and girls through leadership development. YWCA Banff works within a continuum of services model that meets service users where they are on their journey to wellness and empowerment. The organization's intersecting services - including emergency shelter, transitional housing, counselling services, and longer-term affordable housing - provide women, families, and individuals in our community with the tools they need to thrive.

#### **About YW Calgary:**

YW Calgary focuses on supporting women and their families to thrive, safely and equitably. With the support of our donors, government partners and other social agencies we provide an array of programs and services which focus on preventing incidents of domestic violence and trauma by building



knowledge and skills to promote healthy relationships, mental wellness financial resiliency, all while continuing to offer the critical supports women and their families need. We care about each other, our clients and our community and are driven by the lasting impact we have on women, their families and by extension, their community. For more information visit [ywcalgary.ca](http://ywcalgary.ca)

**About YWCA Edmonton:**

YWCA Edmonton is a powerful voice for equity and has been leading social change and progress for women & families in the Edmonton region since 1907. As part of the oldest and largest women's social service organization in Canada, YWCA Edmonton works to create safer, stronger communities. Our North Star is equity and social progress for all.

**About YWCA Lethbridge:**

YWCA Lethbridge & District responds to the needs of Southern Alberta in housing, homelessness, poverty, domestic and sexual violence. We work to enhance the lives of our clients through personal empowerment and a supportive community. We are an organization created by women that is leading our community with innovative solutions to enrich lives, promote fulfillment, and create happiness for all those that we are fortunate enough to serve. We value health and wellbeing, perseverance, community, mentorship, integrity, safety, and the personal integrity of all those that we support.