



YWCA
EDMONTON

A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



**Women shaping a world of
equality, opportunity and choice.**

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President's Report

It has been a very exciting year as the YWCA Edmonton prepares to celebrate its 100th Anniversary. The Board of Directors has been actively reflecting on the YWCA's past achievements, considering current challenges and planning for the future.

In 2006, the Board of Directors developed a strategic plan to reflect its renewed focus on sustainable programming for women and their families. This initiative resulted in a new vision of “***Women shaping a world of equality, opportunity and choice***”. This statement was chosen because it captures the bold future that the YWCA strives to create each and every day. Although many believe that women have already achieved equality in Canadian society, the fact that only 14.4% of Alberta's electoral seats are held by women is a stark and humbling reminder that there is much more progress to be made.

This year, the YWCA Edmonton also renewed its commitment to its mission, “***Through leadership, advocacy and service to women and their families the YWCA creates strong inclusive communities that value women's perspectives***”. Our management team has been actively exploring new partnerships and initiatives to address the need for a Domestic Violence Centre as well as funding for female entrepreneurs. The YWCA Edmonton's established programs and services have also continued to thrive despite the formidable challenge of an extremely competitive labour market. These strong results are indisputably the product of our dedicated and extraordinarily capable team of employees.

As a Board, we recognize that our aspirations for the YWCA must correspond with more sustainable and diversified sources of funding and resources. In order for us to provide programs and services that meet the emerging needs of women and their families, we must inspire and connect with those who can offer their time, talent or treasure to this cause. To this end, we have continued to focus on creating strong fund development and volunteer coordination programs. We hope that you will join us, in both our centenary celebration and in the years following, in creating and commemorating our future success.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to our donors, sponsors and funders for choosing the YWCA Edmonton as your charity of choice. Your support over the past 100 years has allowed women in difficult circumstances and their families to thrive. With your support over the next 100 years, we can help them to lead.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McKinstry
President, Board of Directors

Board of Directors 2006 - 2007

President – Kerry McKinstry
Vice President – Michelle Stevenson
Treasurer – Rachel Gosse
Secretary – Antara Wosnack
Past President – Barb Gordon

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Shannon Dean**
Bette Gray
Brenda Hanson
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Shelley Ruis*
Donna Zazulak**

* resigned prior to completion of term

** interim member

Message from the Executive Director

YWCA Edmonton is part of the largest international women's organization in the world with over 25 million members in 110 countries around the world. In Canada, there are 36 YWCAs providing services to over 200 communities across the country. Canadian YWCAs designate as "Turning Point Programs" those services that support women who are at a critical or turning point in their lives. YWCA Edmonton provides a number of Turning Point programs, outlined in the program reports for this annual report package.

In 2006, the Board of Directors approved new Strategic Directions for YWCA Edmonton and staff developed targets for performance measurement, that is, how will we know if we're successful. The Strategic Directions plan contains a number of new services and activities for the YWCA to begin in 2007. In the meantime, in 2006 we continued to provide a variety of services, adding some new initiatives to our established programs:

- One Woman One Vote – non-partisan activities to increase women's participation in voting, running for public office, or working on a political campaign.
- International Partnership with YWCA of Guyana – support the YWCA of Guyana in strengthening their organizational infrastructure and administration as well as their ability to become self-sufficient.
- Counselling Services – individual and group sessions for individuals, couples, and families in addition to information and referral services.
- Community Visions for Adults with Disabilities – in-home respite and out of home placement in YWCA support home for adults with disabilities as well as services in a residential home for four medically fragile adults.
- Family Services for Children with Disabilities – in-home respite and out of home placement, behavioural programming and parent support for families caring for a child or children with a disability
- YoWoChAs Outdoor Education Centre – camps and outdoor education for children and youth as well as retreats for women, mothers and daughters, and employee work groups.
- Y-Knit – Donated yarns are knitted and crocheted by volunteers and then donated to individuals in need throughout Edmonton, including YWCA clients.

Within the Annual Report are success stories about people who have received service from the YWCA. I encourage you to read their stories as they are a reminder of why we should all feel proud to be part of the YWCA in Edmonton through the many ways we are all involved including providing service, making financial donations, renewing our membership each year, volunteering on a committee, and so on.

Programs and services were delivered successfully to over 7800 people in 2006. At YoWoChAs Outdoor Education Centre, group bookings and summer camp registration were very positive in 2006 and new programs were introduced as well. In addition, we successfully negotiated a \$40,000 settlement with CN for the impact of the oil spill on our operations in 2005. We also applied for and were successful in securing a sizable donation from CN and CGI Adjusters to develop the Franklin Wetlands, which were donated to the YWCA in 2004. Services continued to families caring for a person with a disability. The impact surveys that are done regularly indicate that these programs have a tremendous benefit to the whole family and particularly for women, who are usually the primary caregivers in the family. Counselling Services also continued to provide counselling primarily to women and children in individual sessions as well as group sessions. The Y-Knit Service volunteers continue to generate knitted

and crocheted items that are donated to people in need. The program has a committed volunteer base and volunteer coordinators overseeing the distribution.

The international partnership we have with the YWCA of Guyana was developed further through the International Cooperation Committee's support in writing funding proposals and through YWCA Edmonton dollars provided to the YWCA of Guyana. Our partnership arrangement is now viewed by YWCAs and YM/YWCAs across Canada as the model to strive for. The One Woman One Vote program was also very active in 2006, culminating with the Roundtable Event at Lister Conference Centre in November.

Externally, YWCA Edmonton staff represented the YWCA on a number of different Boards and committees in 2006 including Edmonton Chapter of Alberta Association for Services to Children and Families, Edmonton Domestic Violence Centre Board, Edmonton Council of Service Providers, Alberta Association of YWCAs, Community Initiatives Against Family Violence, Alberta Recreational Canoeing Association, Paddle Canada, Alberta Camping Association, and Bereavement Interagency Group, to name just a few.

In 2006, in addition to providing much needed services, we renewed our focus on fund development particularly with the intent of building infrastructure in preparation for raising money in different ways to support YWCA programs and services. Infrastructure in fund development includes things such as creating different levels of donor recognition (what donors receive as recognition given the level of their donation) updating both the database itself and what types of information we keep, and writing policies and procedures. Closely tied to our fund development work in 2006 was the re-branding of the YWCA with the birthday logo, and the Turning Point logo used by YWCAs across Canada. Updating involved adding a line to all emails that states our Vision, redesigning print materials so that when old versions expired there were new versions with new logos and information, crating traveling display materials, and so on. In addition, the two Managers who work in Fund Development and Communications were part of the 100th Birthday Steering Committee and they developed a media plan, work plans for each of the many events, budget estimates, and began to approach potential sponsors and donors in the community to assist with the birthday costs.

In October of 2006, I informed the Board and staff that I would be leaving the YWCA, bound for new career pursuits in the spring of 2007. Planning for a recruitment process began in the latter part of the year and is well underway at the time of this report. I would like to thank everyone who contributes to this organization in so many different ways; by supporting the YWCA, you are supporting women and their families in achieving their potential. I believe I have made a difference in my own role and I truly value the friendships I have made during my sixteen years with the YWCA in Edmonton and Saskatoon. I look forward to the future, and the opportunity to continue my support of the YWCA movement in Canada and globally as well as here at the YWCA Edmonton.

Kelly Sloan
Executive Director

Treasurer's Report

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief overview of the financial results of the YWCA Edmonton for the year ending December 31, 2006 as reported in the annual audited financial statements.

Auditors' Report

The auditors' report as submitted by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP contains an unqualified opinion on the 2006 financial statements of the YWCA. In other words, after conducting their audit of our financial statements, they conclude that, in their opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at December 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Statement of Financial Position (or "Balance Sheet")

Total assets of the Association as at December 31, 2006 were \$3,162,000. This represents an increase of about \$404,000 or 15% from the previous year-end. Some of the items that have contributed to this increase include:

- Cash holdings have increased by \$39,000
- Marketable securities, which consist of guaranteed investment certificates and our investment portfolio, have increased by \$431,000.
- Property and equipment have decreased by \$90,000. This consists of additions of a tractor for YoWoChAs Outdoor Education Centre and new computers, less amortization.

Total Liabilities including deferred revenues amounts as at December 31, 2006 have increased by \$236,000 to \$1,213,000.

Long Term Debt has been fully repaid in the year.

Net Assets have increased by about \$167,000 to \$1,949,000, with \$863,000 invested in property and equipment, \$415,000 unrestricted, to be used for future operations, and \$671,000 restricted by the board to provide for new program development, capital projects and emergency expenses of the Association.

Statement of Operations (or "Income Statement")

Net revenue in excess of expenditures for the year was \$167,000 as compared to \$197,000 for the previous year.

Operating revenue for the Association for the year ended December 31, 2006 was \$6,393,000, an increase of 9% or \$523,000 over the corresponding amount for 2005.

Some of the notable changes in revenue from the prior year include the following:

- Fees for service were up \$400,000 or 10%. The Extended Host Family and Adult Services revenue were up from 2005 by \$324,000 and \$204,000 respectively.

This was offset by a combined decrease of \$137,000 in Enhanced Respite revenue and contract for services with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

- Government Contracts, Grants and Subsidies increased by \$124,000 to \$1,108,000 due to increased Provincial contracts for the Family Consultation and Training Network and Teen Network.

Total operating expenditures for the year were \$6,422,000. Compared to the previous year, total operating expenditures for 2006 have increased by \$592,000 or 10%. Significant changes from the prior year include:

- Salaries, wages and employee benefits and Purchased (contract) services were higher by \$130,000 and \$355,000 or 11%, respectively from the prior year. This is consistent with the changes in revenues from Fees for Services including Adult Services and Extended Host Family, Enhanced Respite and the Northwest Territories Contract.
- General and administrative expenditures increased \$121,000 over 2005 primarily due to increases in fundraising, advertising and promotion and utilities expenses.

Other income consists of \$40,000 received from CN as a damage payment for losses incurred in 2005 and bequest funds of \$276,000.

Summary

In summary, the YWCA Edmonton has a healthy financial position, meeting needs of the community by building on our strong core programs and expanding the ways we support women and their families in our ever-changing environment.

Rachel Gosse, CA
Treasurer, Board of Directors

Community Visions Program for Adults with Disabilities

The Community Visions program saw some growth in 2006, most of which came from clients who transitioned from the YWCA Family Services to Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program when they turned eighteen. The program provided respite to a total of 78 individuals with 42,324 hours and 1,556 days of service. The program's Support Home model of service provided 30 individuals with 24-hour supports.

The Community Visions Program faced many challenges in 2006, the most crucial being the severe staffing shortage within the human services sector and a funding cut by the PDD Regional government office. Despite these challenges, the program was able to maintain its high quality service, as evidenced by feedback from a Quality Assurance Survey of individuals and guardians, and by providing support specific to the YWCA mission of supporting women and their families. This program also had the opportunity to share its expertise and experience by providing support to the YWCA Yellowknife for one month.

The Community Visions program experienced a high turnover at the supervisory level in the first half of the year, however was able to minimize the caseload instability by hiring experienced personnel and having a holistic approach to case knowledge by all supervisory staff. Support staff shortages were a continuous challenge all year, due to the majority of positions being part-time, and to an overall labour shortage in the field. Strong relationships between the YWCA and its staff and families, and positive word-of-mouth by support staff have been major contributing factors in our making it through these difficult times. These strong relationships were also beneficial to the program when service supports to families were cut by 3.4% by the provincial government in the spring. In 2006 the Community Visions program began offering Foundations in Community Rehabilitation training to program staff. The course, formally known as Basic Skills Training, provides tutor-supported training for staff working with persons with disabilities.

Challenges with staffing were also faced by YWCA services in Jenn's Place, a group living environment for four medically fragile individuals with developmental disabilities. These challenges, including guaranteed staffing for the project, ever-changing support needs and major surgery for two of the residents, were met thanks to the dedication and commitment of all support staff.

The Creating Excellence Together (CET) Accreditation process with the Alberta Association of Rehabilitation Centres (AARC) was begun for the YWCA in 2005. With limited growth of the program, staff was able to direct focused energy in the needed areas to complete this process and the program received its Accreditation status in June 2006.

The YWCA Edmonton and the Community Visions Program for Adults with Disabilities acknowledges the support received from the Province of Alberta's Persons with

Developmental Disabilities (PDD) and from the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Community Visions Program for Adults with Disabilities Success Stories

The Community Visions Program saw many successes in providing supports specific to the YWCA mission of supporting women and their families. For example, in one situation a women faced a personal crisis that required her to leave the city for one month, and the YWCA program was able to provide long-term respite services for her developmentally delayed daughter. Another success story involved a young woman turning eighteen who wanted to move to Edmonton from a town in northern Alberta. The program was able to provide a support home environment for her, allowing her to access resources and opportunities for personal growth and development in this community.

In 2006, the YWCA Edmonton responded to a request for support from the YWCA Yellowknife that utilized the Community Visions Program's expertise and resources. The Program Manager spent the month of September in Yellowknife, completing an assessment of their program that provides services to persons with disabilities and mental health concerns, and making recommendations for change. The Manager was also fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the YWCA Yellowknife's 40th birthday celebration. The following month the Yellowknife Program Director and supervisory team traveled to the YWCA Edmonton for a three-day retreat, during which they had some work sessions around policy & procedures, roles & responsibilities, and communication. A visit to the YoWoChAs Outdoor Centre provided the group with some team building activities. The YWCA Edmonton Community Visions Program Coordinator team also spent time with the group, sharing information and experience, hopefully to begin a peer support network.

Counselling Services

Our focus for 2006 was on continuing to offer the quality and frequency of current programming while at the same time exploring potential partnerships and new program areas to address needs in the community. The program **Building Healthy Families** offered parents and children an opportunity to develop skills to enhance family relationships. This program was provided with funding from Alberta Children's Services Community Incentive Fund and support from Menisa and Grace Martin Elementary Schools in Millwoods. The **Kids' Turn** Program, offered in partnership with Alberta Justice, assisted 5 parents to gain valuable knowledge on how to understand the needs of children under five and at the same time develop effective co-parenting relationships. The partnership continued with **Lurana Shelter** to provide 151 onsite counselling sessions to meet the unique needs of their clientele and to provide support for staff.

In 2006 the YWCA Edmonton Counselling Centre provided direct services for individuals. The counsellors saw a total of 401 clients for individual, couple and/or family counselling. There were 300 assessment interviews and 1,261 one counselling sessions provided. Five advocacy sessions and four support calls were also provided for clients. In the **Three-Phase** support group for women recovering from the effects of abuse, 21 women completed phase one, and 5 completed phase two. There were 24 youth and 11 adults who completed the **Paths of Change** program which assists moms and children to heal from abuse. Nine youth completed the **Time to Talk** Program designed to help youth develop healthy grief coping skills. Five adults completed the adult grief program **Many Faces of Loss**. Fifty-eight children participated in the **RAINBOWS** and 37 parents in the **PRISM** programs to work through issues regarding parental separation/divorce. We offered one session of the **Women and Anger** program as a pilot in 2006.

The implementation of a **Family Violence Protocol** slightly modified our approach to service delivery. This protocol requires counsellors to ask a question regarding family violence during the intake process. A review of client records indicates that we asked 90% of new clients a question relating to family violence even if they were not seeking services for this issue. Our protocol also requires us to complete a safety resource sheet with callers who disclose that family violence is an issue for them. A safety resource sheet was completed for 51 callers.

Our commitment to joint learning was continued by working with counselling interns from Loma Linda's Marital and Family Therapy program, by offering practicum placements for students from Campus Alberta Graduate Program in Counselling and practicum placements for students from Concordia University College of Alberta B.A. in Psychology (Applied Emphasis), and by providing opportunities for provisional psychologists to work toward their designation as Registered Psychologists. In total these individuals volunteered 1,271 hours to client services. Key learnings identified by these volunteers are increased knowledge about family violence, and how to work with families impacted, whether they are working with adults or the children.

The annual **Client Satisfaction and Service Impact Survey** was conducted in the summer of 2005. In summary, it indicated that

- 87% felt that they received the kind of help that they needed
- 84% reported that they learned a lot about how to deal with problems
- 98% agreed that an important part of what they learned was to help themselves
- 82% felt better than before receiving services at the YWCA
- 66% attributed positive changes to the help they received at the YWCA

On a national scale we continued our involvement on the National YWCA Steering Committee for a multi-year National Shelter Project. An important part of this project work in 2006 was the release of the Phase II Report – Effective Practices in Sheltering Women – and the lobbying with various politicians in Ottawa for necessary infrastructure to support implementation of the recommendations.

YWCA Edmonton along with the Counselling Services department gratefully acknowledge and thank all from whom financial support is received: United Way – Alberta Capital Region, City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services, Alberta Children’s Services Community Incentive Fund, Alberta Justice and the Allard Foundation.

Family Services for Children with Disabilities

The YWCA Edmonton Family Services for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) offers a holistic approach to providing care and services to children and youth who have been identified as having support needs. The support needs may be due to the child having a diagnosis of a developmental or emotional disability, or the child is considered to be medically fragile and requires special care.

The approach to care is built on the values of the YWCA Edmonton; a holistic, community-based approach, which respects diversity and difference, and is administered with a woman's perspective. FSCD works in partnership with families, government, and community professionals to provide comprehensive, quality services uniquely tailored to meet the individual needs of the families, children and youth. Program design is meant to respond to the needs of families who have a child or children with a disability, and to mitigate the prospect of family breakdown and placement of a child/youth outside of a family environment.

FSCD delivers a variety of programs responding to the varied needs of families. Service delivery takes place through a variety of forms, including short term out-of-home respite, long and short-term support through placement in a family home, short term in-home respite, and consultation and training for families. The employees and contractors are carefully screened and trained. They are then matched to ensure a "best fit" in being able to provide the required support to the children/youth in service. All caregivers are required to maintain Standard First Aid/CPR training, and are also provided with further training in the areas of Abuse Protocols, Medication Administration, and Behaviour Management.

In September 2006, the one-year Teen Network pilot project was concluded. The funder of the project, FSCD Region 6, was not able to identify sufficient referrals to warrant continued funding. The Teen Network provided after-school care and work-related care for parents with teens with disabilities. The Network, which was located in the north end of the city, was equipped with a games room, an art room, and an all-purpose recreational room, as well as a kitchen. The teens engaged in activities both within the Network, and in the community. Some of the fun activities they were involved with included trips to the zoo, afternoon fishing expeditions, hiking, and kite making. The Network closed at the end of September, and was marked by a pizza party for the staff, teens, and their parents. The teens (and their parents) exchanged phone numbers and hoped to continue with some of the friendships that were formed during the fun times at the Teen Network.

The YWCA Edmonton's Family Services to Children with Disabilities and the YWCA Edmonton extend thank yous to those agencies and organizations who continue to financially support our programs: City of Edmonton, Family and Community Support Services; Province of Alberta – Region 6, Family Support for Children with Disabilities; Edmonton and Area Child & Family Services; Little Red River Cree Nation Child &

Family Services; Family Support for Children with Disabilities Slave Lake; and Region 7 Edson Region Child Services.

Respite Services

The YWCA Edmonton offers two programs that provide in-home respite to families and their children. Each program area offers unique services to families who may otherwise be left with very few respite options because one or more of the children have a disability.

In-Home Respite:

The In-Home Respite program is a jointly funded program between the Province's Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) and the City of Edmonton's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS). Its mandate is to provide short term, in-home respite to families who have a child with a disability living with them in their home. Families call the YWCA with requests for hours of service, and the dynamic team of staff, coordinator, and booking assistant do their best to accommodate their needs. In 2006, the In-Home team provided 9090 hours of service, plus over 522 hours of "Fee for Service". The "Fee for Service" hours are those above and beyond what families may have in their contracts with the funders, and are charged directly to the family based on the number of hours of service received. The total number of service hours continued to decline again this year, as a direct result of shortages in the labour market. The limited availability of qualified staff has had a direct and serious impact on the ability of the YWCA to serve all the hours that are requested by families. In response, the YWCA has been involved in unique recruitment and retention strategies, not only for the In-Home program, but also throughout the Children's Services area, and has added to their team a Recruitment Coordinator position.

In-Home Success Story

The In-Home Respite program has been involved with one young man in particular for a number of years. Throughout this time, the family has struggled to maintain even the most basic necessities such as food, shelter, and family stability. During his time in service, the YWCA has been able to provide support beyond the mandate of the program, and has had the pleasure of watching a boy grow up into a young man who is kind, compassionate, and confident. Over the years, this young man has moved several times, and at one point was receiving services out of a hotel room that he and his blended family of five were living in.

The In-Home program has been able to provide this family with a dedicated and consistent caregiver, whose special talents with children with disabilities has helped to enhance the life of the young man she has worked with. Teaching life skills such as room cleaning, assisting with meal preparation and school readiness are some examples of the caregiver and client interactions that have made the service so successful. The staff has expectations that are consistent and clear, which helps to

ensure that the client is successful in meeting his personal goals. Not only does the program provide respite services for mom, who has two other children, but also helps develop the potential of the client being served.

This family has benefited in countless ways through the efforts of the staff and Coordinator of the In-Home Program. Means to access other community resources have been introduced, such as Wecan Food Co-op. The youngster being served has been able to attend Edmonton Oilers hockey games with his YWCA staff through the generous donation of community members and children's groups. A new Oilers fan has emerged, tracking the outcomes of the games on the Oilers schedule that hangs on his wall. The family has received mittens, hats, and blankets through the YWCA's Y-Knit Volunteer program, and have also been connected with a variety of other community agencies. It has been a pleasure for the YWCA to be involved with such an outstanding young man, and to have the pleasure of watching him grow up.

Coordinated Enhanced Respite:

Coordinated Enhanced Respite (CER) changed its name from Enhanced Respite to better reflect the nature of service delivery. Children/youth who are served through this program often have behavioural challenges, and thus require a higher level of support in the home. Often the families receiving service have their own unique challenges such as having English as a second language, or parents who have mental health concerns, requiring the YWCA Coordinator to do staff scheduling and to provide additional support to client families and respite staff. The complexity of the family dynamics and the children's diagnoses and behavioural concerns means that there is a need for more direct assistance from the Coordinator and a higher level of skill from the support staff working in the home. The amount of service provided to each child/family is based on individual contracts that reflect the unique needs of each family system, and on the availability of qualified staffing support.

Along with the name change, the program moved from having two full time Coordinators and a Program Assistant, to having one Coordinator to manage the entire program. Throughout the 2006-year, over 16,978 hours were served to families and children. Numbers of hours served had decreased substantially from 2005, and this decrease was a direct reflection of the lack of available staff to provide the respite care.

Coordinated Enhanced Respite Success Story

A sixteen year old male client in the Coordinated Enhanced Respite program has had made great strides since November 27, 2005, when his contract with the YWCA began. This young man was referred to the YWCA's Coordinated Enhanced Respite Program, as his family and community had difficulty coping with the stressful behaviours stemming from his diagnosis of Autism Spectrum disorder (best described as Aspergers Syndrome). He was placed in a residential facility for the many criminal charges he incurred from his out-of-control behaviour. It was not uncommon for this youth to set fires, destroy property, shoplift, and threaten people.

The YWCA matched this youth with a male support staff. The staff and youth spent the weekends accessing community resources and interacting in positive activities that the youth enjoys. His interests include “gaming” at the local card shop, shopping, eating at the sushi bar and experiencing Edmonton’s cultural diversity. The staff has been a positive influence on the life of this dynamic young man by encouraging him to respect himself as well as others and to maintain boundaries, and by providing consistency through presenting realistic expectations. Through Coordinator support and staff exercising the fundamentals of childcare, this youth has made significant progress in the past year. He has had no incidents of inappropriate behaviour since their pairing in early 2006. They continue to spend time together in the community and practicing life skills.

Family Consultation and Training Network (FCTN)

This unique program is funded by the Province’s Family Support for Children with Disabilities and offered in partnership with four Edmonton area agencies; the YWCA Edmonton, Robin Hood Association, Skills Society, and Transitions. This program was developed to help families who want to increase their understanding of their child’s development or behavioural concerns. Supports may include: workshops, behavioural or developmental consultation, strategies and information on the child’s behaviour and/or developmental needs, recommendations for a Behavioural/ Developmental Aide, and recommendation for referrals to other community services, such as respite, counselling, parenting groups, etc.

The YWCA Edmonton Behavioural Consultant, upon referral from Family Support for Children with Disabilities, consults with the family of a child displaying behavioural or developmental delays. The Behavioural Consultant meets with the family at their residence, completes an assessment and makes recommendations or sets goals, which could include medical investigation, courses/workshops, counselling, observation and support from the Consultant or more intensive support through an Aide. This is a voluntary program and the family must be actively engaged and participate in this entire process.

In 2006, our Behavioural Consultant facilitated Behaviour Management Training for employees and contractors, a Parents’ Conference, which had approximately one hundred and seventy participants and a Social Skills workshop for approximately fifteen parents and their children. Over the last year this program has served forty families.

Family Consultation and Training Network Success Story

A behavioural referral was sent to the YWCA’s Behavioural Consultant regarding a 14-year-old young man whose behaviours which included rigidity, property damage, physical aggression (such as hitting, pinching, scratching others, kicking, and biting), and verbal aggression. These incidents were happening up to three times a day and lasting for several hours. The young man lived with his parents and two younger

brothers. The behaviours occurred in the family home, community and school. The school was struggling to allow this young man to remain and had suspended him several times. Due to his suspensions, mom's employment was being affected and ultimately she took a leave from work. When our Consultant began working with this family, mom had withdrawn from life, from her family and talked about taking medication due to her stress. After the Consultant spoke with members of the family it was clear that they wanted help and were willing to work with the Consultant. An Aide was placed in the family home and worked initially with the mother to build up her confidence through strategies and support in dealing with her son. As mom started to put in place the strategies in the home and became more confident with her abilities, support was focused on the family. Strategies that were being used at home were introduced to the school with great success. After working with this family for six months the behaviours had reduced to one time a month, with less impact on the family. The family said that the strategies provided helped the situation to become less stressful. During the last meeting with mom, she was happy to say that she was going back to work and had been off the medication for the last month and felt great. She thanked the YWCA for "giving back my confidence, life and family."

Extended Host Family Program

The Extended Host Family Program is a unique service that provides a long-term residential option for children and adolescents who have identified support needs that range from behavioural concerns to medical requirements. These individuals are best supported in a normative family setting that can provide an environment suitable to their physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs and preferences. Program Coordinators provide ongoing support, resources, advocacy, behavioural planning, and a high level of supervision to the YWCA Extended Host Families to ensure consistent quality of service and care. The success of this program is based on a careful matching process whereby the needs of the child/adolescent are paired with the skills of the YWCA Extended Host Family. This is a unique program in the City of Edmonton, and its long-standing success is due to strong partnerships with funding agencies and communities. The capacity of the program to meet service demands depends upon the availability of suitable Extended Host Families, the Program Coordinator's caseload capacity, and funding for the children and families in service.

In 2006, seventeen children/adolescents funded through Child and Family Services Authority, eight children/adolescents funded through Family Services for Children with Disabilities, and five "out of region" children were served in the Extended Host Family Program.

Extended Host Family Success Story

One of the children served through the Extended Host Family program is a 14-year-old boy who has been involved with the Children and Family Services Authority for many years. He had been in several foster homes and a group home before he came into the YWCA program. Fortunately, this boy had a connection with one of our Extended Host

Families. It just so happened that he had resided with her in previous years when she worked as a Foster parent. According to the child's Social Worker, he had always maintained that he would like to live with this amazing woman again. Perfect circumstances created the opportunity for this child to return to the home he had always wanted to be in.

The young man has thrived with the one-on-one care that the Extended Host family has provided. Behavioural concerns that were seen at the group home have, over the course of time, been eliminated due to the consistency and love that are abundant in this family home. The program has also been successful in advocating for the young man to be fully integrating into his community school from a segregated behavioural site. He has been connected with a study group and is studying hard to increase his academics before the 2007/2008 school year. He enjoys the local youth church group to which he belongs and swimming at his neighbourhood pool. The YWCA looks forward to seeing many more successes for this boy.

Host Family Program

YWCA Host Families are contractors who offer short-term respite within their own home environment for a child or children with disabilities. Host visits include drop off care, overnight care, weekend respite and respite for out-of-school days. The majority of families access their host family one weekend per month on a regular basis. If the family chooses, they can accumulate the number of days they are allowed for Host Family, and use these days all at once, which allows parents to go away on a vacation, or take an extended break.

The YWCA Host Family Coordinator matches the child's needs with the Host Family skills. Scheduled visits are booked through the Program Assistant and entered into a scheduling database. Once a booking is entered into the system, they are recorded on the "on call pager list" and support / supervision visits for the Host Families are determined accordingly. The YWCA provides all mandatory training for the Host Family providers, as well as "client specific" training.

Client families often refer to their Host Family as "a home away from home". Families receiving this service report that they feel supported and more equipped to manage the everyday stress that surrounds having a child with a disability in the home. They especially welcome the opportunity to spend some quality time with the siblings, or for parents to enjoy some "one on one" time. Many have indicated that having a break they can count on makes them better parents, partners, and employees in the long run.

The Host Family Program served 1,381 Contract Days in 2006 and 364 Fee For Service days. There were 26 active contractors and 4 contractors "on hold" or "inactive" waiting for a suitable match for their home. YWCA Host Family Program served a total of seventy-five families in 2006.

Host Family Success Story

Some YWCA Host Family contractors have served children with disabilities in their homes for ten to fifteen years. When they first began, they had young children of their own and raised them to be involved with the children coming to their homes for respite. The YWCA is now seeing a second generation of Host Families following in their parent's footsteps.

One such case was that of a very dedicated YWCA Host Family who retired last year and moved to Florida. During their thirteen years as a YWCA Host Family, they served approximately 16 clients through the Host Family Program. Some of these children started when they were three years old and continued on into adulthood. At the time of their retirement, this YWCA Host Family still had four clients, from four to thirteen years old. The parents of these children were very unsettled to learn that the Host Family was ready to retire, knowing that their children had received consistent care in the same home for such a long time. These children were also accustomed to being in care with each other and had developed friendships. The task of finding one home that would be skilled enough to provide all of the children with the level of care that they had been receiving for so many years seemed insurmountable.

It was then that the daughter of the now retiring YWCA Host Family made the decision that she would like to take over the care of her mom's clients. This was very good news to the families of the children. Not only did she take over her mom's caseload, but she and her husband also purchased her parent's home. The children in care had virtually no transitioning, as they were very familiar with their new Host provider, having grown up with her in her parent's home.

For the families of these children with disabilities, this truly was a blessing. It can be very hard for families to replace a caregiver who has been as dedicated as this former Host Family was. Thanks to their daughter, the original Host Family is still able to keep in touch with all their former clients' progress and know that everything is "as it should be".

Fund Development / Communications

Fund Development Infrastructure

The focus of fund development activity in 2006 has been two-fold: to put in place needed infrastructure in order to begin establishing a diversified fund development program, and to provide support (including securing sponsors) for 100th birthday celebrations.

Much focus has been placed on capacity building and positioning of YWCA Edmonton over this year. A fund development manager was hired in May 2006. Between April and December a review and audit of program needs was completed and opportunities have been identified to raise necessary funds for program areas. A fund development policy and procedure manual has been developed as well as several fund development tools. A data base review was completed and the collection and clean up of donor lists is ongoing. Principles of stewardship for existing donors have been developed including donor development, recognition and retention programs. A strategy to re-engage lapsed donors and volunteers has also been developed. Research is ongoing into new partner alignments with considerable success. The addition of the Canada Helps Online Donation tool to the YWCA website has resulted in additional donations, as well as informing public of YWCA programs.

Communications Infrastructure and Re-Branding

Our 100-Years logo was developed and brochures, stationery, and advertising guidelines were designed using the new Turning Point and 100 Years logos, and adhering to the National YWCA guidelines.

The new Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan were implemented internally and also incorporated into the agency's re-branding for external stakeholders and general public. Target demographics for the new branding were identified, and appropriate media vehicles for each were researched.



Internal education of staff members, centred on the YWCA's unique role in the Edmonton community, has resulted in increasing pride in and comprehensive knowledge of the diverse programs offered, enabling more staff to become ambassadors for the YWCA in our community.

A collection of stories of the YWCA Edmonton has been undertaken, with the goal of painting a word picture of our programs and making these stories available to the general public through the twice annual newsletter and the YWCA website. The shifted focus of the newsletters to this format has resulted in an increase in donations received from the public.

100th Birthday

In 2006, key messaging was developed as well as a marketing plan for the 100th Birthday year. Strategic partnerships have been formed and media sponsorship requests developed. The kick-off event to the 100th Birthday celebration occurred in December 2006. YWCA Edmonton participated in the University Hospital Festival of Trees with great success. Our historically themed tree was viewed by 30,000+ patrons throughout the Festival weekend and was sold to Deloitte & Touche for \$1000.00. Thanks to PricewaterhouseCoopers for their sponsorship of the tree. Timelines and business plans were developed for all other birthday projects. A Presenting Sponsor for the 100th Birthday Celebration was secured. The YWCA Edmonton extends a huge Thank You to Pfizer Canada.

International Cooperation

If success can be measured in the starting and the completion of a building for YWCA of Guyana, West Coast Berbice (WCB) Branch, then YWCA Edmonton's International Cooperation program is extremely pleased and successful. From beginning in 2003 with a group of women in the West Coast Berbice (WCB) area wanting a YWCA in their community, to doing planning in 2004 with team from the YWCA Edmonton, to WCB launching numerous ventures including food preservation and poultry businesses, to them constructing their very own building (grand opening on February 13, 2007) these very motivated Guyanese women have accomplished an incredible amount of work. It has been the Edmonton's ICC group's privilege and pleasure to have been of assistance to the YWCA West Coast Berbice Branch in 2006.

First, we assisted the General Secretary of the YWCA of Guyana, Glynis Alonzo-Beaton, with writing funding proposals that secured the funds needed for development of a small business start-up project (food preservation and processing business) and for construction of the new YWCA building in Lichfield, West Coast Berbice. Additionally the YWCA Edmonton provided Guyana with funds to match the *Buy a Brick* campaign donations made by the YWCA Canada Member Associations at the AMM 2005. These matching funds provided by the YWCA Edmonton were used to hire a business/financial consultant in Guyana. Mr. Hunte was able to put in place financial management systems, provide training in those systems, and provide training with business planning. This resource was directed to the West Coast Berbice Branch, but will ultimately also benefit all the YWCA of Guyana Branches.

Thank you to the members of the 2006/07 International Cooperation Committee: Brenda Hanson (current chair and Board member), Shannon Dean (Board member), Kathie Gavin (community volunteer, former Board member and committee chair, and National YWCA ICC liaison), Susan Logan (community volunteer), Kelly Sloan (Executive Director), and Sher Hiller (staff liaison), along with Alison Barnfather (community volunteer), who served on the 2005/06 committee. The YWCA also acknowledges the International Women's Week (IWW) Reception committee, a group of volunteers who offered their time and energies to ensure another successful event, the proceeds of which were directed to the ICC for the YWCA of Guyana. Thank you to the members of the IWW committee – Sacha Aldrich, Susan Logan, Alison Barnfather, Wes Inaba, Polly Mah, Valerie Weatherby, and Sheila Taschuk.

A special thank you to Kathie Gavin who has worked diligently on YWCA Edmonton's ICC since 2003. She has filled several roles including those of ICC Chair, Chair of International Women's Week Reception committee, and now as a community volunteer. In 2006, she also took on the role of YWCA Edmonton representative on the National YWCA International Cooperation Committee.

Special Events

YWCA International Women's Week Reception

The second annual International Women's Week Reception was held at the Timms Centre on the University of Alberta campus on Wednesday, March 8. Approximately 200 people were in attendance to hear, **Senator Mobina Jaffer**, speak on her profound and moving experience as Special Envoy to the peace process in Sudan. Reception attendees also saw five groups perform—*Kita No Taiko*, *Armonia del Peru*, *Zaghareet! Tribal Belly Dance*, *Movements: the Afro-Caribbean Dance Ensemble*, and *Shelley's Dance Company* and enjoyed ethnic tapas from Acapella Catering. There was merchandise from the YWCA Toronto's International Women's Boutique available for purchase. Proceeds from this event supported the work of YWCA of Guyana through the partnership between YWCA Edmonton and YWCA of Guyana.

Tribute to Women of Distinction Awards Gala

The **YWCA Tribute To Women of Distinction (TTWD) Awards Gala**, which is the YWCA Edmonton's major fundraising event, was held on June 15th, at the Northlands AgriCom. The event recognized the accomplishments of 43 outstanding women from the Greater Edmonton area. Over 650 guests attended the gala in support of the nominees. Prior to the gala, nominees, nominators, sponsors, staff and the volunteer Steering Committee had the opportunity to meet at the Crowne Plaza-Chateau Lacombe Edmonton at the Nominees Reception. The recipients in the twelve award categories included Diane Bergeron (Advocacy); Shelley Switzer (Arts & Culture); Jadeene Wheaton (Athletics, Recreation and Fitness); Elaine Warick (Business, Management and the Professions); Janice Sutherland (Community Service); Brenda Willis (Education); Amanda Welliver (Entrepreneurs); Marliis Taylor (Health and Medicine); Karla Horcica (Industry & the Trades); Dr. Patricia Demers (Post Secondary Education), Meghana Saincher (Science & Technology); and Ariel Hendin (Youth: 18 and Under). The Honourable Lois E. Hole Award for Lifetime Achievement was presented to Muriel Stanley Venne in 2006.

The TTWD Steering Committee included Marlene Smith (Honorary Chair), Donna Zazuluk (Chair), Kerry McKinstry (YWCA Board Liaison), Nancy Melnychuk (Board Liaison), Shelley Ruis (Board Liaison), Asma Qadri (Treasurer and Silent Auction), Brenda Burton-Jones (Sponsorships), Debbie Theuss (Sponsorships), Leslie Struck (Nominations and Selections), Alethea Adair (Print Coordinator), Honya Rubuliak (Print Coordinator), Tammy Thachuk (Print Liaison), Polly Mah (YWCA Staff Liaison), Amber Niemeier (YWCA Staff Liaison) and Rebecca Ings (YWCA Staff Liaison).

A special thank you is extended to the TTWD Award Patrons – SEP Digital - Special Events (Digital) Photo, RE/MAX, MEDIACO, The Presentation Company, Shelley's Dance Company, Edmonton City Centre, Kuhlmann's Market Gardens and Greenhouses Ltd., Crowne Plaza – Edmonton Chateau Lacombe; Canadian Western Bank, McLennan Ross, Dr. Barry Lycka, Elysium Hair Body Spirit, *callidas*, TELUS, and CIBC; and to the Media Sponsors - EZ Rock 104.9 FM, The Edmonton Sun, and CTV. In addition, a sincere thank you to all individuals and companies who contributed to the success of the 2006 Tribute to Women of Distinction Gala.

Volunteer Services

YWCA Edmonton was established in 1907 by women who saw the need for safe, affordable accommodations for young women arriving in Edmonton. Their hard work, vision and dedication as well as the efforts of countless volunteers over the years has helped to shape the YWCA into the organization it is today.

Staff are always appreciative of the fantastic work accomplished by volunteers. In 2006, there were 231 individuals who generously contributed their time, energy, enthusiasm and talents toward fulfilling the YWCA Edmonton's mission. This figure includes fourteen staff members who volunteered outside of their normal working hours, six individuals with placements to meet requirements in their studies, and a number of volunteers who were involved in more than one program, service or activity. Many volunteers were involved in direct service delivery such as group facilitation, knitting for disadvantaged people, or working at special events. Others supported the work done by staff and volunteers by performing tasks such as photocopying and collating materials, counting and sorting knitted items, clearing trails, or painting walls. Finally, some volunteers served on various committees or the Board of Directors.

- Board and Committees: 38 individuals contributed 2272 hours.
- Counselling Services: 18 individuals contributed 558 hours in facilitating groups; 6 individuals contributed 2127 hours as part of their practicum, internship or provisional hours for certification.
- Special Events: 54 people contributed 374.5 hours at the YWCA International Women's Week Reception, YWCA Tribute to Women of Distinction Nominees Reception, YWCA Tribute to Women of Distinction Awards Gala & Silent Auction, and Edmonton Woman's Show.
- Y-Knit: 73 people contributed **42,666.5 hours** knitting and crocheting items, and 4 people contributed 58 hours in pick-ups and deliveries of yarn and finished articles. There were also 4 people who sorted yarn as well as sorted and counted knitted and crocheted items, contributing 161.5 hours in 2006.
- Administrative and Support Services to Staff and Volunteers: 7 adults with developmental disabilities or other special needs contributed 683.75 hours, and 7 individuals contributed 129.5 hours in office and administrative support. 49 individuals contributed 325 hours to spruce up or winterize the facilities and campsite at YoWoChAs Outdoor Education Centre.

Total Volunteer Hours from January 1 to December 31, 2006 – 49,355.75 hours

The actual hours of voluntary service are likely higher than those stated in this annual report, due to the modesty of our volunteers in reporting the hours they so generously give.

YWCA Volunteer Services sincerely thanks and gratefully acknowledges the Wild Rose Foundation for their support and funding in 2006.

Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony

On Wednesday, April 26, 2006, the YWCA Edmonton and Board of Directors recognized two special individuals for their outstanding commitment and support of the agency. **Heather Pick** received the Pat Cook Award for her legacy to the YWCA Edmonton. She served on the YWCA Board of Directors; registered her children in the YWCA Drop-In Day Care and swim lessons in the 100 Avenue building; registered her children in summer residential camps at YoWoChAs Outdoor Education Centre; and is currently President of the Society of the Friends of the YWCA in Edmonton, which raises funds for the YWCA through casinos. A Philosophical Life Membership was presented to **Donna Zazulak** for her years of voluntary service on Tribute to Women of Distinction Awards Gala steering committee, including the initiation of the Silent Auction component of the Awards Gala and chairing the steering committee.

YWCA Edmonton and Board of Directors also honoured staff and contract service providers for their years of service to the organization at this event. **Ioent Ross**, Host Respite Provider in the Community Visions Program for Adults with Disabilities, was recognized for **fifteen** years of service.

In the **ten** year category, three people in the Host Family program of Family Services for Children with Disabilities were honoured - **Kay Bains**, **Donna McCarthy**, and **Betty Wispinski** - as well as Executive Director **Kelly Sloan**.

Five year recipients were **Talet Ahmed**, **Grace Bell**, **Janet Buckmaster**, **Sherrill Dowling**, **Dora Gonzalez**, **Shannon Koreman**, **Holly McNabb**, **Bonnie Morrison**, and **Karen Shaw**.

Individuals recognized for **three** years of service included **Judy Ahmed**, **Mudasser Ahmed**, **Terry Bartley**, **Rita Biard**, **Shannon Clifford**, **Sarah Douziech**, **Kayti Dunnigan**, **Roxanne Edwards**, **Sharon Grant**, **Lynda Kordyban**, **Nancy Kostyk**, **Andriko Lozowy**, **Sherry Lee Macedo**, **Violet Makortoff**, **Roslyn Manning**, **Cecile McHugh**, **Jennifer McNabb**, **Janet Moawad**, **Rachelle Norris**, **Francois Ouellet**, and **Maureen Whitesell**.

Kim Vandament – A Special Volunteer

The YWCA has always supported volunteer placements for people with disabilities and first welcomed Kim Vandament in December 1994, at the old location on 100th Avenue and 103 Street. Kim was involved with the YWCA and other agencies through the day programs of Chrysalis: An Alberta Society for Citizens with Disabilities, which is an agency that finds employment and volunteer placement for adults with disabilities. Her volunteer work in the Front Desk and Administration areas of the YWCA continued until the Chrysalis Day Program ended in June 2002. Obviously, a strong relationship had developed between the YWCA staff and Kim, and now with the assistance of Residential and Support Services (R.S.S.) – a direct government program that provides

residential care, health and activity support to disabled adults living in homes throughout Edmonton - our happy association with her has continued from January 2003 to the present day at the YWCA's new location on 124th Street.

With the help and nurturing care of support workers like Carol and Lillian, Kim assists with various office tasks including photocopying, shredding papers, collating manuals and faxing. In addition to her volunteer work, Kim is involved in her third year with the "On Campus" program at the University of Alberta. This program provides an inclusive, post-secondary educational opportunity for Kim to audit courses that reflect her many interests such as Dance for Children, Choral Music and a film class about "Representation of Women and Film"

Kim has expressed her genuine enthusiasm and appreciation for the friends and the fulfilling volunteer work she has found at the YWCA. The feelings are reciprocated, and she has endeared herself to all the staff who have had the good fortune of working with her. The warm comments of the staff are unanimous and consistent. In addition to her widely known love of very good chocolate, the YWCA staff are impressed by "her radiant smile" (which broadens when her boyfriend, Mark, is mentioned), her "wicked sense of humour" and her "wonderful memory". Kim is as an inspirational and valued member of the volunteer force and her contribution is reflected in an abundance of positive feedback. She epitomizes what volunteerism is, and should be, through her dedication and her personal development as a great lady working towards her greatest potential in spite of her disabilities.

YoWoChAs Outdoor Education Centre

2006 was a year of change at YoWoChAs Outdoor Education Centre. Many staff who have been with YoWoChAs for a number of years left to pursue other opportunities in their lives. We had a new Manager, Programme Coordinator, Programme Technician, Maintenance Supervisor and Support Services Supervisor. Despite the amount of change the year ended on a positive note with excellent staff in place, and looking forward to a new year.

Fundraising

In 2006, YoWoChAs received generous donations from CN and CGI Adjusters to develop Franklin Wetlands. This is a 9-acre parcel of land owned by the YWCA and located just north of the main YoWoChAs site. The plan is to create an environmental learning area with interpretative trails, boardwalks and a 25-foot high tree house structure to overlook the wetlands. Construction is likely to begin in late summer 2007 being as environmentally sensitive as possible.

We also secured two donations to develop new programs. First, a \$2,000 donation from the Allergy Asthma Information Association, the organization that we partner with to provide a food allergy camp in the summer, to renovate the recreational hall into a rock climbing bouldering room. Second, a \$1,500 donation from TransAlta Community Transformers for an ice auger to help build an on-lake curling rink, along with curling stones and brooms. Both of these new programs will be available in 2007.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the YoWoChAs Outdoor Education Centre Campership Fund. This fund provides financial assistance making it possible for children who would otherwise not be able to experience the joy of camp. Additionally, the YWCA and YoWoChAs Centre acknowledges the support from: HRSD Canada – Summer Career Placement Program, Weyerhaeuser – Jobs For Youth, Alberta Summer Temporary Employment Program, Alberta Recreation Canoe Association, TransAlta Community Transformers, Allergy Asthma Information Association, YoWoChAs Staff Alumni, and the many individual donors.

Facility Improvements

2006 saw the replacement of one of the essential tools at YoWoChAs, the tractor. On its last legs for some time, the old tractor finally quit early in the year. The new tractor has made site maintenance a quicker and safer activity, especially with all the snow. Despite the staff shortages several other projects were completed, including a renovation to the laundry room, installation of siding on the boat shed and laminate flooring in the Manager's house, and the painting of fire suppression pipes in the Lodge.

Programs

Summer Camp ran at 93 per cent capacity with 594 campers attending. These numbers are up slightly from previous years and YoWoChAs summer camp program recovered nicely from the impact of the CN train derailment of 2005. Campership were disbursed to fifty-one children and two schools. The total amount of campership given out to low-income families was \$9,969.

Outdoor education programs brought over 6,191 visitors to the site. Thirty-five current and former staff attended the second annual YoWoChAs Alumni Reunion and Camp Work Day in May. It was a great day of wood chip raking, brush and deadfall clearing and beach preparation.

We led outdoor leadership courses in canoeing for eight participants and the Adventure Challenge corporate retreat program for one business. We ran one successful Women's Escape Weekend this year with thirty-five participants and our winter and spring open houses brought sixty-five people to the site for an afternoon of outdoor activities. We also hosted the first Mother Daughter weekend in the fall to rave reviews from the forty-nine participants. We plan to add a winter retreat next year.

YWCA One Woman One Vote

2006 was a very busy year in terms of results for the YWCA's non-partisan One Woman One Vote Program, which focused on political under-representation of women. In addition to trademarking the program's logo and developing a "How To" manual to share with other YWCAs and like-minded organizations, YWCA Edmonton undertook a number of local, provincial, and federal strategies with the support of federal government funding from the Status of Women Canada. Some activities were solely YWCA-driven, while others were done in partnership with organizations that we continue to work with including Equal Voice, Fair Vote Canada, and the Coalition for Women's Equality that the National YWCA is part of. 2006 activities are outlined below:

- Presentations to a class at Sprott Shaw Community College, a Women and Electoral Reform session, University of Alberta's Feminism in the Third Wave Conference, and AUMA Women in Municipal Politics Session.
- Participation in the Forum on Women's Activism in Constitutional and Democratic Reform convened on Parliament Hill in February to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the inclusion of Section 28 in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. That section promises that all the rights and freedoms are guaranteed equally to males and females.
- Participation in Public Interest Alberta's Conference in April.
- Participation on the steering committee for the Democracy Symposium in May hosted by the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights. Co-hosted the session on Gender Equality & Democracy.
- Co-hosted a workshop for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on the subject of increasing women's decision-making in municipal politics.
- Wrote a letter to the editor published in the Edmonton Journal in response to Premier Klein describing politics as a young man's game and a blood sport.
- Wrote letters to the Mayor of the City of Edmonton and met with him asking him to fulfill his election promise of establishing an advisory council on women's equality that would look at municipal gender issues and policies.
- Wrote and presented a brief to Honourable Anne McLellan, Chair of the Federal Liberal Task Force on Women and Gender Balance in Politics. The brief consists of research identifying nine barriers to women's political participation and possible solutions.

Federal Election Activities - January 2006

YWCA One Woman One Vote focused on encouraging women to vote, asking women to encourage their eligible daughters and sons to vote, and creating understanding of how federal government policy impacts our daily lives. YWCA activities included:

- Distribution of 1100 brochures to 14 forums, to women's groups, to quality seeking organizations, and to post secondary student associations. The brochures asked "*What would Canada look like if every eligible woman cast a vote?*" and covered advance poll opportunities to vote early, provided examples of questions to ask candidates, with background on issues such as Housing, Pay Equity, Violence,

Immigrant and Visible Minority Women and women's political under-representation, and described the matrix on the YWCA's One Woman One Vote website.

- Being present at 13 of the 16 Edmonton Candidate Forums to talk to attendees and candidates and to distribute brochures.
- Developing an Election Matrix of policy positions. This chart tracked the party platforms and campaign promises of five major political parties prior to the January 2006 federal election to assist women in becoming informed about their choices. The method of distribution of the Matrix included posting on the YWCA's One Woman One Vote website www.onewomanonevote.org, electronic distribution through twenty-seven different group email lists, and posting on four websites of post-secondary institutions.
- Media work to encourage women to vote and to draw attention to the low percentage of female candidates: public service announcements in two newspapers and six radio stations, media release resulting in interviews with the Edmonton Journal and Shaw TV, and radio ads on six stations in thirteen languages.
- Following the election, the YWCA ran a congratulatory advertisement in three newspapers addressed to all women who ran for office (whether successful or not) and to those who voted

YWCA Roundtable in November 2006

“WOMEN IN CONVERSATION WITH WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE”

YWCA One Woman One Vote held this event at the Lister Conference Centre on campus at the University of Alberta. The non-partisan Roundtable has women who are already in public office, from every political party, answering questions from women who are interested in running for public office. Each politician hosted a table of ten participants for forty-five minutes, at the end of which the participants at each table switched to a different table to hear from a different politician. Questions ranged from “how do I organize volunteers, how do I raise money for my campaign, how do you balance personal life and life in public office,” and many more. This event was aimed at empowering Edmonton women, from their initial participation as informed voters to their commitment to political leadership, and to provide opportunities to network, discuss challenges, share strategies and provide mutual support.

The YWCA Edmonton was successful in receiving three more years of federal funding and so will continue with activities of the nature described above as well as planning for a campaign school in 2009.

Donors and Sponsors

Acknowledgement of the generosity of our funders, donors, supporters, and contributors.

Core Funders and Major Donors

United Way – Alberta Capital Region; Government of Alberta (Region 6, Family Support for Children with Disabilities, and Edmonton and Area Child & Family Services; Little Red River Cree Nation Child & Family Services; Family Support for Children with Disabilities Slave Lake; Region 7, Edson Region Child Services; Persons with Developmental Disabilities; and Alberta Children's Services Community Incentive Fund; Alberta Justice), Government of Canada (Status of Women Canada); City of Edmonton (Family and Community Support Services); Government of the Northwest Territories; Wild Rose Foundation; Bank of Montreal; Marion Brooker; Jacqueline Charlesworth; CGI Adjusters; CN; Edmonton Community Foundation (Shirley and Gordon Gifford Family Fund); Edmonton Community Foundation (John and Barbara Poole Family Fund); Edmonton Public Teachers; Edmonton Public Teachers Local 37 Charity Fund of the Alberta Teachers' Association; Enterprise Rent-A-Car; Future Shop - Edmonton South; Shirley Gifford; Peggy Gouin; Mrs. Cathy Rozen & the Allard Foundation; Society of the Friends of the YWCA in Edmonton; The Honourable Judge D.R. Wong.

Supporters

Carol Armitage; Lisa Awid; Shelby Bodnar; Nancy Boettcher; Jo-Anne Borchman; Kyra Brown; Rita and Venor Calhoun; Sheila Campbell; Debbie & Wayne Carlson; Gwen Clarke and John Booth; Pat Cook; Maarit Cristall; Charleen Currie; Kay Dier; Gabrielle Drewitz; Marsh Lutz & Kevin Empson; Yashima Esmail; Robin Ewasuk; Joan Fargey; Jolyne Ferguson; Mrs. Lois Field; Lorna Gawlinski; Maria Gibson; Kasey Giesbiecht; Lorna Gladue; Nirmala Godinho; Carmen Gonzalez; Marie Gordon; Lorna Hammond; Alan Henry; Rose Hoyda; Bonnie Hutchinson; Gregg Janz; Leah Kazakoff; Debra Kelly; Donald Kwas; Tara Laderoute; Jean Lawson; Brenda Lizotte; Scott and Marcy Matheson; Jean McBean; Dennis Moore; Cindy Moretti; Debbie Morrison; Mildred O'Donoghue; Kath Oltsher; Doseong Park; Sheila Petersen; Heather & Garry Pick; Frances Reynolds; Marilyn Rhodes; Tammy Sehn; Casey & Alexandra Skakun; Margaret Thomas; Linda Wilde; Mildred Willis; Norma Wylie; Beth Young; Donna Zazulak.

Contributors

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Youth; YWCA Toronto's International Women's Boutique; YoWoChAs Staff Alumni; Zaghareet! Tribal Belly Dance.

Tribute to Women of Distinction Gala and Silent Auction

Alberta Beach Seniors Club; ATCO Gas; Avonlea Photography; Barry A.S. Lycka, M.D., FRCP©; Beauty Express; Blue Flame Kitchen; Neil Bosch, CIBC Wood Gundy; bridges catering; Bryan's Fashions; *Callidas*; Canadian Western Bank; Ceili's Irish Pub; Century Grill; CIBC; CIBC Imperial Service; CMHC; Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel; Coast Paper Ltd.; Con Boland Photo; Corporate Edge; Courtyard by Marriot; Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe; CTV; Dental Care; Derks Mens Wear; Devonshire Cream; Donovans Women Wear; Edmonton City Centre; Edmonton Cracker Cats; Edmonton Skydive; Elizabeth Arden Cosmetics and Fragrance; Elysium Hair Salon & Spa; EZ Rock 104.9 FM & Picture This! Framing & Gallery; Faculty of Extension, U of A; Fantasyland Hotel; Steve Federchuk, VP, CIBC; Fidelity Investment; Four Points by Sheraton Edmonton South; Four Seasons Furnace Co.; Glendale Oilfield Supervision Ltd.; Grapevine Nails; Grapevine Nails; Identity Clothing; Jewelry by Judy; Kuhlmann's Market Gardens and Greenhouses Ltd.; Lilianna's Boutique; Londonderry Shopping Mall; Lords Shoes; Magnum Opus Promotions Ltd.; McLennan Ross; MEDIACO, The Presentation Company; Mind & Body Pit; Jim Mitchell, CIBC Financial Planning; Caroline Mouris; Northlands Park; Norwesco Industries; Odyssium Space & Science Centre; Out of the Fire Studio; Park Muffler Brakes; Fred Patton, CIBC Wood Gundy Investments; Ponderosa Design; Pro-Tech Seal; RE/MAX; Rogers Sleep Shop; Dawn Rogerson; Salvi / Ironwood Homes; Second Cup; SEP Digital - Special Events (Digital) Photo; Shelley's Dance Company; Shelley's Dance Company (SDC); Shoppers Drug Mart; Showtech Power & Lighting; Sorrentinos; Sorrentinos - Sherwood Park; Speedfast Color Press Inc.; The Edmonton Sun; Tom Spratlin; Standard Radio; Sylvia Company Hair Salon; TELUS; The Sutton Place Hotel; Total Eclipse; University of Alberta Press; Verve Salon & Spa; Wingate Inn.