



CCASA

CALGARY COMMUNITIES AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE

2023 Annual Report

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@calgarycasa

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Introduction

About us

Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CCASA) is the primary sexual harassment, sexual abuse and sexual assault crisis, counselling and education service provider for Calgary and the surrounding areas. We exist to inform, educate, and empower. We are a leader in the field of sexual violence.

For 30 years, CCASA has built a strong foundation and network of services to support communities in addressing sexual violence and the resulting myriad of complex issues for individuals, families and communities. We strive to enhance the health and well being of all people and our broader community through responsible and effective programs in sexual harassment, sexual abuse and sexual assault education, crisis intervention, and counselling.

Our Vision

Healthy communities free of sexual violence, including sexual abuse, sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Our Mission

To lead in the provision of specialized sexual violence services and educate communities to shift attitudes and responses to sexual violence.

Land Acknowledgement

In the spirit of respect and truth, CCASA wishes to take a step towards reconciliation by acknowledging traditional treaty land where we work. CCASA acknowledges the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy, comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations, the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). Moh'kins'tsis, named by the Blackfoot, meaning "Where the Bow River meets the Elbow" is also home to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta Districts 5 and 6. Finally, we acknowledge all Nations – Indigenous and non – who live, work and play on this land, and who honour and celebrate this territory.

Message from Leadership

As we reflect on 2023, Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CCASA) has experienced a year of significant achievements and continued resilience. The implementation of our new Business Plan set the stage for a successful year, with senior staff meeting the goals outlined in our Operational Plan. The results from our annual staff survey were exceptionally positive, revealing that our team feels supported, well-directed, and equipped with the necessary resources and training to perform their roles effectively.

A notable accomplishment this year was our collaboration with Luna Child Advocacy Centre, through which we conducted an exploratory project to examine and streamline our services, ensuring no duplication and clear delineation for our clients. This initiative not only clarified roles for our staff but also enhanced our service delivery.

In 2023, funding for sexual assault centres was prioritized by both major political parties in their election promises. Although the anticipated government funding had not materialized by the end of the year, we received temporary one-year funding starting April 1, 2023, to address counselling waitlists across the province. We remain deeply grateful for the ongoing financial support from the United Way of Calgary and area, the Ministries of Health (now under the Mental Health and Addiction Ministry), Alberta Community and Social Services (now under Children and Family Services), and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General – Victims of Crime Fund. Unfortunately, after more than 30 years, our funding from the City of Calgary Family and Community Support Services was terminated on March 31, 2023. Nevertheless, we successfully secured the City of Calgary's Safe Communities Investment Funds for one year, ensuring the continuation of our crisis services.



Message from Leadership

Our Board Governance saw significant activity as we recruited seven new board members, expanding our board size as stipulated in our bylaws. This new group began collaborating in the fall of 2023, bringing fresh perspectives and energy to our governance framework. Internally, we restructured to create a new role, Assistant Director of Clinical Services, to work closely with the Director of Clinical Services. This addition has stabilized and strengthened our clinical services, contributing to a high level of staff stability throughout the year. Recognizing the challenges of trauma work, we strive to provide competitive salaries, a flexible work environment, excellent supervision, and creative benefits to support our dedicated staff. This year, we saw fewer openings and more success in maintaining a full complement of staff.

Financially, 2023 was stable for CCASA. We continue to benefit from ongoing contracts with funders, along with increased donations and revenue from our education and training services.

Reflecting on the year, we are proud of our accomplishments and the unwavering dedication of our staff, volunteers and board members. As we look forward to the future, we remain committed to advocating for those experiencing sexual violence, improving our services, and fostering a supportive environment for our team and clients.

Janice McCallum, President, Board of Directors and Danielle Aubry, Chief Executive Officer



Services

Calgary Sexual Assault Response Team (CSART)

The Calgary Sexual Assault Response Team (CSART) provides specialized care to individuals who have been sexually assaulted within the last 168 hours. The team operates primarily out of their specialized facilities in the Sheldon Chumir Health Centre. This service is available 24/7 to anyone 14 years of age or older who has experienced a sexual assault. Children 13 years old and younger can access CSART services at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

379

Hospital
Accompaniments

602

Individuals
Supported

1,419

Hours of Service
Provided

239

Referrals



Counselling

The Counselling program provides individual and group counselling to people 12 years of age or older impacted by any form of sexual violence, including sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and sexual assault. We also provide counselling to anyone supporting an individual who has been impacted by sexual violence.

1,059

Clients

777

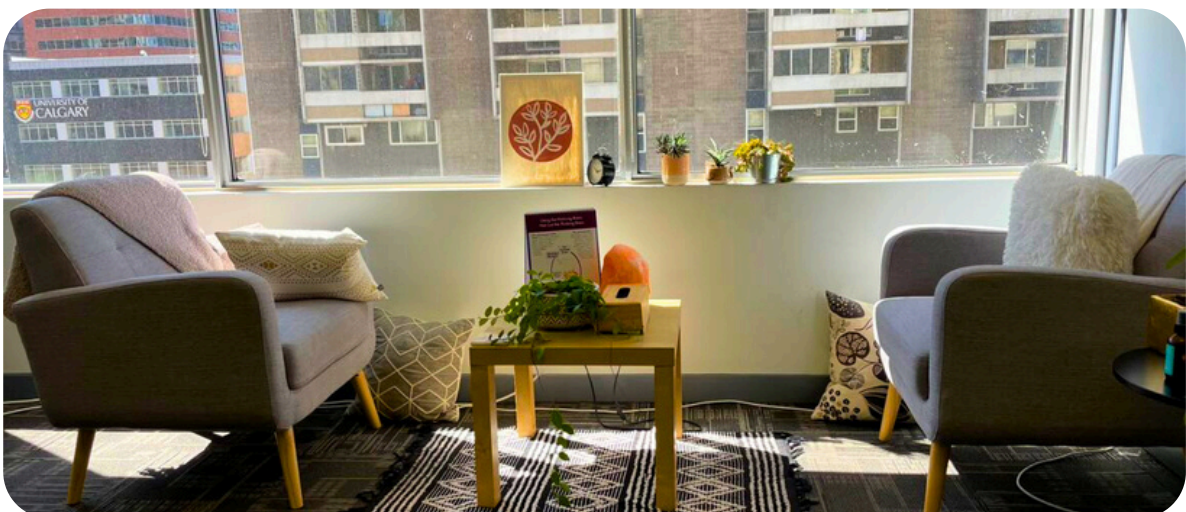
Intakes

3,176

Individual
Counselling Sessions

26

Group
Counselling Sessions



Services

Police and Court Education and Support (PACES)

The Police and Court Education and Support (PACES) program provides specialized information, education, and support to people who have experienced sexual violence as they navigate the legal system, or as they consider doing so.

359

Clients

166

Accompaniments to
Police, Crown & Court



Support & Information Line

CCASA's Support and Information Line is available to anyone who has been affected by any form of sexual violence. Through this line we offer crisis intervention, emotional support, supported decision making, information about the many forms of sexual violence, and referrals to community resources.

CCASA also partners with Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence to help provide phone, text, and chat support to Albertans who have been impacted by sexual violence.

CCASA Support & Info Line

2,437

Calls



Alberta One Line

473

Calls

137

Texts

458

Chats



Volunteer

Volunteers support both CCASA's Support & Information Line, as well as, Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence.

1,175

Volunteer hours from
CCASA's Support & Info line and Alberta's One Line

29

Volunteers



Services

Training , Resource, and Education Centre (TREC)



Child & Youth

CCASA continues to offer education and training opportunities for children, youth, caregivers or professionals working with children and youth. Our programs teach children and youth about body autonomy, healthy relationships and about abusive behaviors. CCASA Children & Youth programs can be made available in schools or any child/youth-serving agency, such as an after-school program, camp etc. We offer two age appropriate programs for children and youth:

- Who Do You Tell?™
- Birch Grove™



279

Presentations

6,861

Participants



Public Education

CCASA continued to offer core education and training workshops to public and professional audiences. These workshops include:

- Sexual Assault & Responding to Disclosures
- Sexual Violence & Anti Oppressive Practice
- Child Sexual Abuse & Responding to Disclosures
- Rethinking Prevention
- Man Enough?™

Testimonials



Presentation was professional (accurate terminology and stats that speak for themselves) and practical (I found the FRIES acronym a helpful way to remember what consent is) and thorough. It was interesting to see how students who were initially giggling or chatting fell quiet as the presenters moved up the “tree” of abuse. Overall, I was impressed at how they struck a chord, maybe by talking to students as mature as opposed to talking down to them. Personally, I am buoyed knowing today’s young people are learning what was rarely talked about when I was their age.

- CSSD Staff Member, 2023



I wanted to say a huge thank you for all the resources and work you have provided Central Memorial High School. Birch Grove has been presented to our students, families, teachers and CALM classrooms. The program has been well received and it has allowed us to use common language in the building. Our hope is to continue using the program our CALM classes where it has been most impactful.

- CBE Guidance Counsellor, 2023



Highlights

#ASKFORIT

CCASA sought to strengthen its outreach and community engagement efforts. In our pursuit, we found kindred spirits in two local enterprises: VOTO, a dynamic BIPOC women-owned tech startup, and Xhale Brewery, a woman-owned gem in the city's craft beer scene that championed harm reduction. The trio embarked on a mission to create something extraordinary—a custom beer that would not only tantalize taste buds but also ignite conversations about consent and awareness. Thus, the #AskForItCampaign was conceived. This unique brew was set to be the catalyst for change, a tangible reminder of the power of unity and collaboration.



MURAL

CCASA's education team collaborated with a local artist, Emily Chu from Edmonton. She designed and created multiple materials for child and youth education, including educational 'zines for the youth program "Birch Grove". The 'zines discuss topics such as bystander intervention, supporting ourselves and others, and the sexual violence pyramid (depicted as a tree).

Lastly, Emily worked with TREC leadership to design a mural, which was installed in the CCASA training room over the summer. The mural depicts a geographical image of Calgary and the surrounding areas, representing the variety of communities we serve.



Highlights

Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

CCASA completed its first year of having a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). One of the YAC members suggested that CCASA participate in The Canadian Library (TCL), a grassroots art installation project that acts as a memorial to all Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls (MMIWG2S), and Children. In May, CCASA staff came together as a team to learn and reflect on the issue of MMIWG2S. CCASA staff wrapped over 100 books in Indigenous fabric with the names of MMIWG2S ironed on the spines of the books. This art installation now resides in CCASA's training room. The event encouraged many emotions, learning, and dialogue for CCASA staff. At CCASA, we know that Indigenous women and children are disproportionately impacted by violence, including sexual violence, so it is important that we do our part to work towards Truth and Reconciliation.



Trans Affirming Network

CCASA partnered with the Skipping Stone Foundation to become the first full social service organization in Calgary to join their Trans Affirming Network of organizations and businesses who commit to creating spaces that are welcoming, respectful, and inclusive of transgender and gender diverse folks.

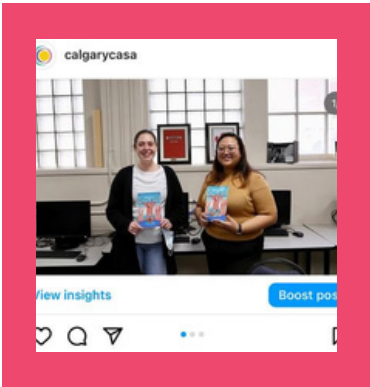
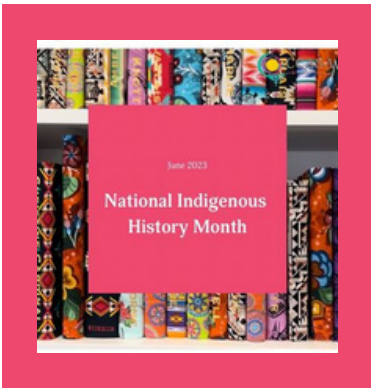
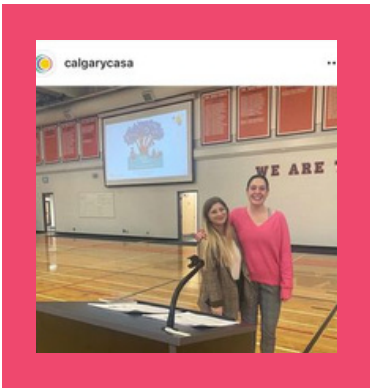


Social Media



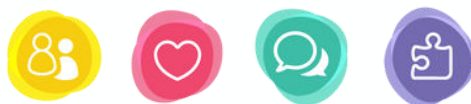
4,613

Followers across all platforms





Annual Report 2023



CCASA Support & Information Line

- 9am–9pm – 7 days a week
- 403-237-5888

Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence

- 9am–9pm – 7 days a week
- Phone/Text | 1-866-403-8000
- Chat | calgarycasa.com

www.calgarycasa.com

Email: info@calgarycasa.com

Ph: 403-237-6905

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