

CENTRAL ALBERTA SEXUAL
ASSAULT SUPPORT CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**APRIL 1, 2023 -
MARCH 31, 2024**



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**CENTRAL ALBERTA SEXUAL
ASSAULT SUPPORT CENTRE**

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MESSAGE FROM: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As a team, we navigated numerous challenges and found stability during what I would describe as 'The Year of Transition.'

For over four years, our clinical team was separated from the administration and education teams, operating out of two different buildings. In the final months of the year, we faced additional difficulties, with some employees working from home and others in less than ideal conditions due to space constraints.

During that time CASASC received invaluable support from Ian Wheeliker of the Central Alberta Outreach Center, who graciously provided us with facilities that allowed us to continue our services without interruption, ensuring all clients were attended to.

We also maintained our high, client care standards thanks to the Red Deer RCMP and Heidi Ravenhill, who permitted us use of space

within one of the RCMP Detachments for our Police and Court Support Program.

This collaboration strengthened the relationships between Red Deer Victims Services, the RCMP, and CASASC, for which we are deeply grateful.

Moving into the Sheldon Kennedy Centre of Excellence building was another significant milestone. Each team member was given the opportunity to personalize their space, resulting in beautiful offices that reflect the unique personalities of their occupants, the end result is an office space that is welcoming for both staff and clients.

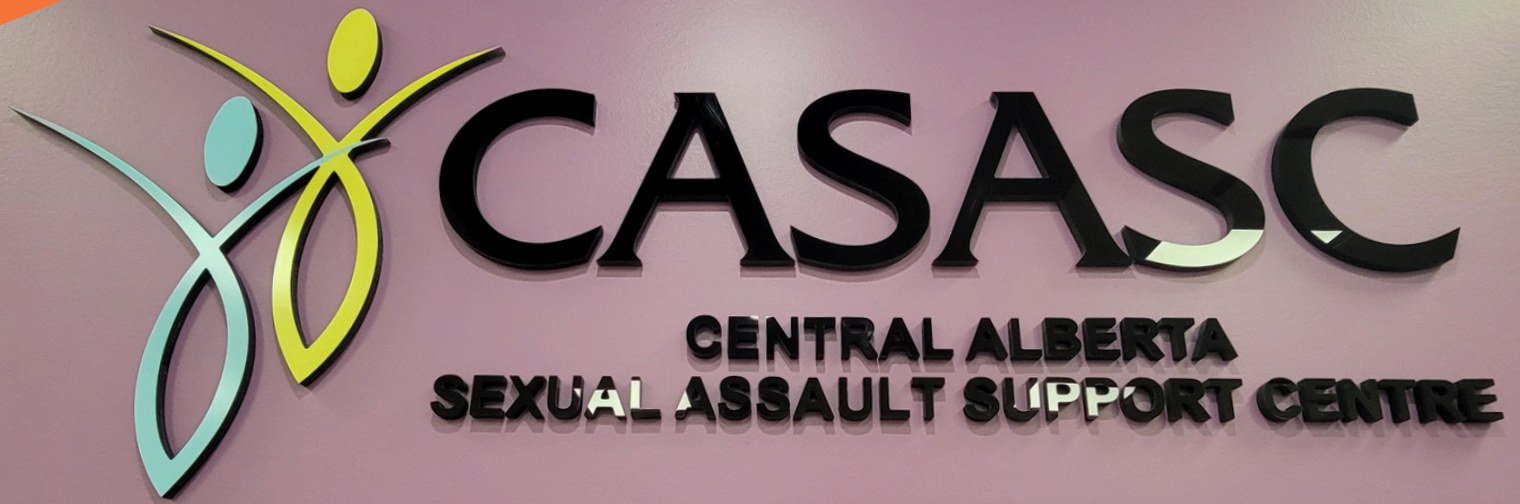
Initially, I was concerned that our clients might feel intimidated by the elegance of the new building but I am pleased to report that the clients take pride in entering such a beautiful facility and appreciate the security and comfort while they utilize our free programs and services.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the staff for their unwavering support and dedication, which have transformed each office into a space of love, security, and comfort for our clients.

Now that we are settled it is the time to express our sincere gratitude to the board of directors, staff, volunteers, and clients for their steadfast support during this transition. Let us now enjoy and take care of the wonderful resources we have.

2023

196	Police and Court Support Clients
816	Education Presentations
2,215	Support Line Calls and Messages
2,554	Counselling Sessions
18,731	Education Participants



MESSAGE FROM: THE BOARD:

First off, I want to say thank you. We had another successful year. The staff, the volunteers, and those who support us are the pillars of our organization. The passion you all have along with the dedication we get to witness daily is truly incredible. It's because of all of you that we can achieve our vision of ending sexual violence and helping to build safer communities through promoting awareness and healing, education, empowerment and renewal. Your work truly has an impact on Red Deer and the surrounding communities.

The recurring theme of this year has been "new". New people, new home, with more new things to come. Our dream of finally being in the same building has become reality. Change is never easy, but the team has done a remarkable job this past year.

We had our ups and our downs, but we were resilient.

The one constant is our clients. We do what we do to help in any way that we can. Some days aren't always rewarding. But we do it, and we do it at a high level, because of the impact we have.

On behalf of the board, I would just like to thank our director, our entire staff, our volunteers, our donors, and anyone who helps in any way in our organization. It is because of all of you that we are a leader in this field, and we would not be where we are today without you. Because of you we have hope. Hope for the future. Hope for humanity. Hope for healing. And hope for change. We sincerely thank you for all your efforts and being the ambassadors that you all are.

Yours Respectfully,
Kyle Kisio



UPDATE: 24-HOUR SUPPORT LINE

Following the COVID-19 Pandemic, the 24-Hour Phone, Text, and Webchat 24-Hour Support Line continued to see a surge in need.

During the pandemic, the Support Line saw over 150 calls per month, with some months reaching over 200 calls.

For reference, prior to the pandemic, the Crisis Line saw approximately 80 calls per month, so significant changes were made to the program to facilitate the needs of the community.

The Support Line has begun to revert to pre-pandemic “normal,” averaging 100 calls per month between June 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

Perhaps the one continuation has been the call length.

Prior to the pandemic, calls typically lasted around 20-30 minutes but during the pandemic, call durations increased to an average of 50-60 minutes, and this pattern has remained consistent.

Despite the call volume decreasing, we continue to see calls routinely reaching the hour mark with many callers calling back.

We have also seen an increase in text and chat interactions this year, with an average of 1.5-2 hours per contact.

It's worth noting that even though the text/webchat line has become busier in recent months, individuals still prefer our phone option to connect with this service.

During this period, CASASC welcomed approximately 50 new volunteers and students to the Crisis Line, bringing our total to around 120 active individuals. Many of these volunteers come from diverse regions across Alberta and Canada. In addition to volunteer efforts, we've partnered with students from various educational institutions, including Red Deer Polytechnic, CDI College, Reeves College, and Willis College. As expected, there has been a decrease in volunteer and student applications, likely due to the return of in-person opportunities elsewhere. Our commitment to meeting coverage demands remains strong and over the next few weeks and

months we are intensifying our recruitment efforts to ensure we continue providing essential support to those in need.

Our goal is to ensure that both our volunteers and Support Team feel equipped, confident, and competent in providing specialized support where it's needed most.

To enhance our capacity to assist individuals with complex needs, CASASC is actively pursuing additional training opportunities.

Special recognition goes to our Support Team for their outstanding work. They have been instrumental not only in guiding volunteers but also in managing complex calls. This includes assisting individuals at risk of human trafficking, addressing high-risk suicidal ideation, supporting those experiencing acute psychosis, and helping children who disclose abuse.

Erin Willmer

UPDATE: SART

CASASC Support to SART, in collaboration with the Sexual Assault Response Team at the Red Deer Regional Hospital, responded to a total of 77 calls.

Our primary objective remains to provide comprehensive support to individuals both before and after their examination, a commitment that has inevitably extended the average call duration from approximately three hours to around five hours.

Throughout this period, the CASASC Support to SART team has changed. Presently, our team comprises of nine individuals, encompassing six after-hours support personnel and three CASASC staff members, all dedicated to delivering crucial support and care.

As we move forward, we anticipate significant changes to the program and look forward to strengthening our partnership with AHS to enhance service delivery for individuals affected by sexual violence.

RIDE FOR RESPECT

AUGUST
2023





UPDATE: COUNSELLING

The CASASC Clinical Team has had the addition of four new staff and three practicum students. This is an exciting time as new members bring different approaches, and frames of reference to the case work.

This year focused on building the competency level of new staff and building strong working relationship with each other. The result has been that we have been able to serve more clients and in a timely manner.

The use of a note-writing program has lowered the stress level of the clinical team and further allowed for more clients spots to be opened up.

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Mark Ballantyne and Tracy Cross

WELCOME TO: THE SHELDON KENNEDY CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE





UPDATE: EDUCATION

The CASASC Education team has continued to grow, attend local events, and provide prevention education and awareness in schools and communities.

January 2024 marked the conclusion of Carlia Schwab's time as the Education and Community Relations Manager of CASASC. Since October 2020, Carlia's leadership, organization, and development of educational programming has had a lasting impact on the team and the community overall.

From April 2023 to March 2024, the team presented 769 total presentations, reaching over 17,000 children, youth and adults in Central Alberta.

The team returned to schools and communities in full force after lockdown and restrictions, making new connections, and referrals to CASASC services and sister agencies. We can attribute this success to the outreach efforts of the team, and providing quality education and support that schools and communities have recognized.

We continued to provide education and awareness in communities through events and farmers markets. Out of the 40 events attended last year, we reached 6,897 people, sharing all about CASASC's free services and programs.

I appreciate how the entire school now has a consistent language to use while talking about this subject. Thank you for the program, I have heard lots of great feedback from teachers

RDPSD Staff

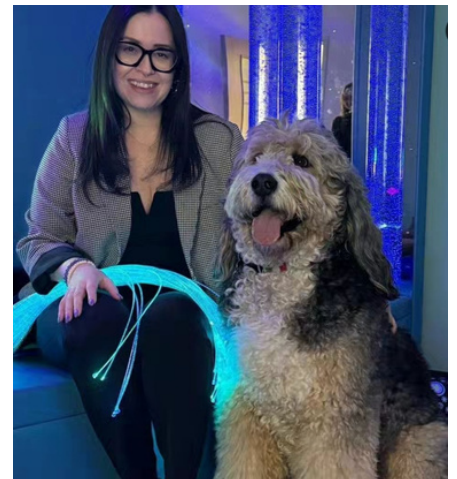
[Shay] was amazing with the kids, they were so engaged. The language/activities were very age appropriate! Thank you!

RDCRS Staff

Our teachers and students really enjoyed you and your presentation.... Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children

RDCRS Staff

CASASC THROUGHOUT THE YEAR





REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Board of Directors of: Central Alberta Sexual
Assault Support Centre

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2024, and the summary statement of operations for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of Central Alberta Sexual Assault Support Centre (the "Society") for the year ended March 31, 2024.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditors' report of the Society.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed a qualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated July 16, 2024. In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Society derives a material amount of revenue from donations and fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation and fundraising revenue, excess revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".

Red Deer County, Alberta
July 16, 2024

Pivotal LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CENTRAL ALBERTA SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT CENTRE SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

MARCH 31, 2024

ASSETS

	2024	2023
CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 165,814	\$ 683,310
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS	259,480	-
CAPITAL ASSETS	272,853	289,303
	<u>\$ 698,147</u>	<u>\$ 972,613</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES LONG TERM DEBT	\$ 431,140	\$ 651,322
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	26,667	41,122
NET ASSETS	145,803	154,255
Net investment in capital assets	85,929	79,987
Internally restricted Unrestricted	225,402	235,782
	(216,794)	(189,855)
	<u>\$ 698,147</u>	<u>\$ 972,613</u>

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

	2024	2023
REVENUE	<u>\$ 1,758,760</u>	<u>\$ 1,609,371</u>
EXPENSES		
Amortization of capital assets	32,427	39,857
General and administrative	1,757,710	1,736,445
	<u>1,790,137</u>	<u>1,776,302</u>
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES, BEFORE THE FOLLOWING CANADA	(31,377)	(166,931)
EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT LOAN FORGIVENESS DEFICIENCY OF	-	10,000
REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ (31,377)</u>	<u>\$ (156,931)</u>

