

Connect With Us

Annual Events

September Bow Valley Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

This event brings men and women together to take a collective stand against violence in communities across the Bow Valley. After taking place in Banff in 2016, Walk a Mile returns to Canmore in 2017.

October The Power of Being a Girl

As part of YWCA Canada's commitment to violence prevention initiatives, this annual conference for girls in grades 4 through 6 explores empowerment, leadership, and healthy relationships.

October Week Without Violence

Canadians bond with people in over 90 countries around the world, with a week-long series of community events promoting diverse approaches to creating a violence-free world.

November Family Violence Prevention Month

A provincial initiative to raise awareness around family violence and available resources.

November Strength in Being a Boy

A part of the YWCA's commitment to violence prevention, this conference for boys in grades 4 through 6 focuses on leadership, empowerment, empathy, and healthy relationships with self and peers.

December Rose Campaign and Evening with Julie S. Lalonde

This event honours Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

March 2017 Bow Valley Women of Distinction Awards

These awards recognize local women who, through their own initiative, ability and effort have demonstrated exemplary achievement in their fields.

March CHANGE MAKERS: Celebrating Women Who Impact Change and Inspire Action

International Women's Day is celebrated annually on March 8th around the world, recognizing the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future.

March VINEart Gala and Auction

Benefitting the Bow Valley Women's Emergency Shelter Program

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO & PRESIDENT

The difficult we do today, the impossible we do tomorrow.

A friend shared these words of wisdom and they ring true for life at YWCA Banff. A shift is happening in our organization and it is exciting to be a part of the transformation.

Our Board and employee team, supported by volunteers, community colleagues, sponsors, government and our donors, are working together to create a community that works for all women, girls and their families. The hard work is paying off!

In our Programs and Services department, the Harmony Project – a collaborative community response to sexualized violence – is generating awareness and action through various initiatives and tools. Supported by the new Survivors Guide and Got Consent campaign, emergency responders and community partners received training over the past year to help streamline and improve services for victims and ultimately change unhealthy narratives and behaviours, with a vision to end sexualized violence.

The Bridge House is another major initiative underway with major funding and support from the Alberta Community Social Services. This fall we will launch the first dedicated transitional housing program for women with children who have experienced domestic violence and are ready to move into an independent, supportive housing environment. Thanks to our partnership with St. George in the Pines Anglican Church, this extension to our Shelter Program will officially launch in September 2017.

Looking to the future, the support of the Canmore Rotary has moved us two steps closer to developing the Higher Ground Shelter and Transitional Housing Project in Canmore. Our vision is to create a purpose-built shelter and housing that meets government standards, is appropriate for our community needs and operates within a sustainable framework. We could not be more grateful for this partnership, which extends far beyond funding the work needed to help us find land, complete planning and development work and launch a capital campaign.

Our partners in the community like the Canmore Rotary, Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, the Cellar Door, Banff Avenue Brew Pub and so many other organizations and people are helping us shift to a new level of vision and accomplishment both in programming and service delivery to support women and families.

I would also like to share our gratitude to the many volunteers who have spent thousands of hours to help us create awareness about our mission, ensure good governance, generate investment in our programs, open new networks, host events and provide friendship and support along the way.

In particular, Her Honour, the Honourable Lois E. Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta as Honourary Patron of VINEart along with Co-chairs, Diane and David Roberts and our entire organizing committee who together were instrumental in generating a new level of outreach and financial success, helping us to further build a strong foundation for the future.

Of course, without a solid Board and staff team, the people doing the hard work on the ground, we would not be achieving our goals – we would not be shifting to the next level. For our team, that is committed to helping women and girls thrive in our community, we are especially grateful.

With gratitude and heart,

Connie MacDonald
Chief Executive Officer

Wendy Kuiper, President
YWCA Banff Board of Directors

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The Harmony Project

A Community Response to Sexualized Assault

Harmony Project was initiated to address the issue of sexual violence in the Bow Valley area. In Alberta, 58% of women report that they have experienced at least one incident of sexual or physical assault since the age of 16. However only 6% of women ever report their sexual assault to the police. The other 94% struggle silently to cope with the long-term effects. In the Bow Valley, sexualized assault is one of the most frequent occurrences responded to by Bow Valley Victim Services volunteers. The project goal is to develop a full continuum of services addressing the issue of sexual assault in the Bow Valley, including awareness, prevention and education through counseling and crisis support.

The project takes a proactive preventative approach, rather than coming from a place of responding to local crisis, looking at how we can prevent future assaults by changing social norms.

Community Mobilization



First Responders Training



CCASA Training



AASAS Training



YWCA Training



Julie LaLonde presentation

To date, 13 organizations, 3 committees and 7 consulting organizations and trainers have been involved with the Harmony Project.

Agencies

Who took part?

• Lake Louise Fire Department • Lake Louise Medical Centre • Alberta Health Services - Addictions and Mental Health • Lake Louise Human Resources Committee • Lake Louise Sport and Recreation Centre • Parks Canada • YWCA Banff• Banff Mineral Springs Hospital • Banff and Lake Louise Hospitality Association • Canadian Rockies Public School Division • Banff RCMP • Canmore RCMP • Town of Banff (Banff LIFE, Community Helpers) • Town of Canmore (FCSS) • Settlement Services • Bow Valley Victim Services

The Bow Valley Context

There are 50,000 people in the Bow Valley (Canmore, Banff, Lake Louise & Municipal District of Bighorn #8). There is a continuous influx of short-term residents and visitors to the area each year, 3,609,637 in 2014/15.

The population in Banff and the nonpermanent population in Canmore, are on average 5 years younger than the rest of Alberta with the largest demographic in Banff between 20 and 29 years old. The preponderance of the younger population in the area, combined with the resort designation contributes to higher risk factors for sexual assault. 144 complaints of sexual assault were made to Banff, Canmore and Lake Louise RCMP between January 1, 2011 and July 10, 2016. Instances of sexual assaults are significantly underreported suggesting that sexual assault numbers in the Bow Valley are much higher.



One of the ways we are reaching young people, especially those who are new to the community, is through their employers, which means connecting with some key HR partners and supporting them in accessing training for themselves and their staff.

Rose Campaign

December 6: Canada's Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

YWCA Banff invited the Bow Valley community to join a discussion about consent and bystander intervention at an evening reception on December 6, 2016, with keynote speaker Julie S. Lalonde.

Julie engaged the audience in a dialogue about sexual violence by challenging common myths, and empowered would-be bystanders with information on how to intervene safely and effectively.

The event takes place during the national YWCA Rose Campaign which takes its name from the rose button created after 14 young women were murdered at Montreal's École Polytechnique on December 6, 1989. The Rose Campaign works year-round to reduce violence against women, increase public awareness and prevent violence before it starts.



We are grateful for the partnership with the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies and I.O.D.E. Mount Temple in making this happen.

Change Makers

YWCA Banff honoured female change makers at the annual Bow Valley Women of Distinction Awards celebration. The event, fittingly named Change Makers, fell on International Women's Day, celebrated across the globe on March 8, 2017.

The awards recognize women who through their own initiative, ability and effort have made an exemplary achievement in their field, women who are outstanding role models because of their goals and the way they have achieved these goals, women who have made substantial contributions to the social fabric of their communities in unique and individual ways.



l to r: Connie MacDonald, Janet Townsend, Keri Martens, Mary Buckingham, Amanda Jette Knox

Mary Buckingham

Mary Buckingham moved to Banff with her husband Jim in the 1970's, and she has been part of the social fabric of the Bow Valley community ever since. Through her professional and volunteer roles with many local agencies, Buckingham has worked with children, seniors and everyone in between.

Keri Martens

Keri Martens has served with the Lake Louise Fire Department for 18 years, 15 of those as chief. In this time, she has answered nearly 1,500 calls and has been recognized for her service to the community with an Alberta Emergency Services Award. She is one of only a dozen female fire chiefs in the country.

Janet Townsend

Janet Townsend has been helping people most of her life – as a social worker for 35 years, and as founder and president of Canmore's Hearts and Hands Foundation for the last 12. With more than 36 volunteer trips to Guatemala organized under Townsend's leadership, the Hearts and Hands Foundation assists hundreds of Mayan people in improving their daily lives, while fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Along with recognizing female community leaders, Change Makers event invites inspiring Canadian speakers to address issues that are relevant to the well-being of local and global communities in the 21st century. This year, the keynote speaker was acclaimed author, **Amanda Jetté Knox**. Mother of 14-year-old transgender daughter Alexis and wife of transgender wife Zoe, she shares their family journey through her blog **Maven of Mayhem** to advocate for LGBTQ rights.

YWCA Banff Hotel

YWCA Banff Hotel is a social enterprise that generates revenue to reinvest in community programs and services, violence prevention education and outreach in local schools, and affordable housing. People who use the hotel at the YWCA are contributing to the Bow Valley in a unique way.

Banff attracts travellers, visitors and job seekers from all over the world to experience the community and National Park.

Our hotel offers simple, affordable, conveniently located private and shared accommodations for all persons, supported by a helpful team who align with the values of the YWCA and are committed to creating positive guest experiences.



YWCA Residence



Access to suitable housing for all Banff residents is an important indicator of community sustainability and individual well-being.

As one of Banff's oldest providers of managed accommodation, the YWCA is committed to being part of the housing solution. Currently the YWCA provides permanent residence for up to 103 men and women who work in Banff.

Our goal is to expand our housing inventory to include studio, 1, 2, and 4 bedroom self-contained units to support a broader demographic of lower income earning residents.

Canmore Rotary

A historic relationship between the Rotary Club of Canmore and YWCA Banff has been formed in support of the Higher Ground Women's Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Project.

In 2015, Rotary Club of Canmore approved the sale of their half of Rotary House to SCOPE for a net proceeds of \$241,422. The question of how the club would reinvest these funds in the community was explored through extensive consultation with Rotarians, community organizations and community leaders to determine what the needs and opportunities were that would benefit most from investment of these funds. A competitive application process was undertaken with a short list of prequalified community initiatives, and in February 2017, Rotary Club of Canmore announced that the funds would be allocated to the YWCA Banff for their project: "Higher Ground Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing".

Rotary Club of Canmore also recommended that these funds be set up as a matching grant pool of funds so that individual Rotarians, community members, and community organizations be given the opportunity to make contributions to this project and have their contributions matched from the Rotary House proceeds funds, effectively doubling their impact. This ongoing partnership and sharing of resources will help the YWCA achieve their desired outcomes.

YWCA Banff is deeply grateful for the Rotary Club of Canmore's ground-breaking support of this project. Rotary Club's investment is the critical first step towards providing women and children with the support, services, and housing options needed to help them regain their independence and create lives free of violence.



I to r: Connie MacDonald, CEO of YWCA Banff; David Roberts, Regional Vice-President and General Manager of the Fairmont Banff Springs; Her Honour, the Honourable Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta; Hans Helder, President-Elect, Rotary Club of Canmore; Karen Keech, President, Rotary Club of Canmore

VINEart Gala

VINEart continues to raise awareness in our community around the service and housing needs of vulnerable women and their children who seek safety and support to escape domestic violence and abuse.

Complete with magical performances, incredible cuisine prepared by the Fairmont Banff Springs culinary team, wine pairings selected by Cellar Door, and a live and silent auction filled with art, wine and food packages, the third annual VINEart Gala was an event to remember.

Thank you to our guests, sponsors, donors, advocates and supporters for making this event in support of the Bow Valley Women's Emergency Shelter Program a success. We are delighted to share that this year's event raised \$125,000! These funds will support the day-to-day operation of the shelter and our plan to develop a purpose-built facility and associated services to meet the future needs of our Bow Valley community.



Bow Valley Walk A Mile

On Friday, September 16, 2016, 178 men marched on Banff Avenue to show their support to end violence against women.

Thanks to the support of the Bow Valley community, we raised \$78,000 for the YWCA's violence prevention work, including education and programming in Bow Valley schools and the community. A big thank you goes out to the event participants, walkers, sole sisters, volunteers, advocates, donors and sponsors. We could not have done it without you!

Will anyone knock two-time defending champion individual fundraiser, Canmore's Mayor John Borrowman off the podium?





Empowering Bow Valley Youth

THE POWER GIRL OF BEING a GIRL



In October of 2016, the YWCA Banff hosted our 7th Power of Being a Girl (PBG) conference. PBG provides a day of connection and engagement based in art, skits, yoga, discussions, and more. The conference was as exciting, energized, and empowering as ever, with girls aged 8 - 13 years-old coming together from all over the Bow Valley.

Building upon the ongoing success of PBG conferences, and in response to a community need for engaging and meaningful programming for boys, the YWCA Banff hosted our very first Strength in Being a Boy (SBB) conference in November 2016. The inaugural SBB conference was at full capacity. The participating boys engaged in a variety of activities focused around fostering empathy and building healthy relationships with the self and peers.

YWCA Banff is thrilled at the success of these powerful events, and is looking forward to providing further engaging, meaningful, and relevant programming to youth in the years to come.

Leadership Development in Action

As an organization dedicated to helping women thrive in our community, we are always looking for ways to support young women who are interested in building personal and professional leadership capacity.



This year we are happy to announce the appointment of Rae-Ann Roberts to the position of General Manager at the YWCA. Formerly the leader of our Guest Services Department, Rae brings a diverse set of experiences to our team, having worked in various operations and hospitality roles all bolstered by a degree in Women's Studies – a perfect fit for our organization. Rae's main responsibilities are to oversee the YWCA Hotel including all day-to-day functions related to Guest Services, Maintenance, Café and Housekeeping.

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of, long-time leader and mentor, Stephen Crotty to Chief Operating Officer. Steve is responsible for developing business strategies and operational policies that support the strategic direction and long-term sustainability of the YWCA including the planning and development of all major capital projects including the Higher Ground Women's Emergency Shelter, the Transitional Housing Project, and the expansion of the YWCA Residence.



Congratulations to Steve and Rae-Ann!

THE JOURNEY TOWARDS HIGHER GROUND

CURRENTLY OPERATING

Bow Valley Women's Emergency Shelter

The Bow Valley Women's Emergency Shelter, operated by YWCA Banff, is the only local resource housing and supporting women and their children fleeing violence. Services include safety planning, referrals, counseling, access to food, clothing, and if necessary, a safe place to stay for women and their children.

Over the past five years, the shelter has directly supported more than 90 women and 48 children for more than 1600 bed nights. Staff have also assisted an additional 110 other women through community outreach services, who live with domestic abuse but don't access shelter.

Existing facilities have some limitations restricting programming and funding options. With only one dedicated space for the Valley, our goal is to develop a suitable, purpose-built facility by 2020.

BVWES provides shelter & supports for Bow Valley women and their children fleeing domestic violence

LAUNCHING FALL 2017

Bridge House

A supportive, transitional housing program for vulnerable women and their children, seeking housing stability and independence in the Bow Valley.

YWCA Banff and St. George-in-the-Pines Church have partnered to address the lack of suitable, affordable housing for women and children in the Bow Valley who have left abusive relationships and are in need of an independent and supportive home environment to help them to build a secure future.

Although emergency shelter is a critical first step in the journey towards a life free of violence, finding an affordable, supportive place to live in the Bow Valley can be an insurmountable task due to the lack of local facilities.

Bridge House will provide housing for women and their children for up to 12 months. The program will include support to guide women to more permanent housing options and access to other resources and services that will support their well-being.

Transitional
Housing is an
intermediate step
between emergency
crisis shelter and
permanent housing

TARGET LAUNCH: 2020

Higher Ground Women's Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing Project

With significant moral and financial support of the Canmore Rotary and other community partners, the YWCA is working to develop the Higher Ground Women's Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing for 2020. Our vision is for a purpose-built, sustainable shelter in Canmore, that meets provincial standards, addresses the needs of the Bow Valley, and ideally, is co-located in a hub-style facility with other community services. Higher Ground will be a place of hope, security and rejuvenation allowing women and their children experiencing abuse to stay in the Valley.

Next steps for the project include finding appropriate land in Canmore, securing private and government partners through a capital campaign, program development and working through the planning and design process leading to permitting and construction.

Our vision is to develop a purpose-built, sustainable shelter in Canmore by 2020

Third Party Supporters

100 HOLES OF HELP

The only thing better than playing a lot of golf, is playing a lot of golf for a good cause.

100 Holes of Help initiative started in 2015 when four Stewart Creek Golf Club members decided to golf 100 holes on the longest day of the year. With an ambitious plan, they wanted to benefit a local charity and chose to fundraise for YWCA Banff's emergency shelter.

In the first year they golfed 144 holes in one day, starting at 5am and finishing at 10:30pm, collectively raising more than \$25,000 for the cause.

In 2016, teammates Michael Pepper, Richard McGivern, Rob Wagemakers, Jamie Perkins and Terry O'Neill surpassed their own goal by golfing 198 holes, golfing continuously for 17 hours and 39 minutes! Other teams were encouraged to join the efforts and Canmore Golf & Curling Club jumped on board to support the cause, with their team playing an impressive 146 holes from 6:30am to 10:50pm in varying weather conditions, including rain!

Since its inception, 100 Holes of Help has raised more than \$55,000 for the Bow Valley Women's Emergency Shelter!

YWCA Banff is grateful for the support we receive from third party fundraising initiatives. In addition to raising money for community programs, these events serve to create a greater awareness of YWCA Banff and to bring new support to our organization.



EMERGENCY SERVICES CHRISTMAS GALA

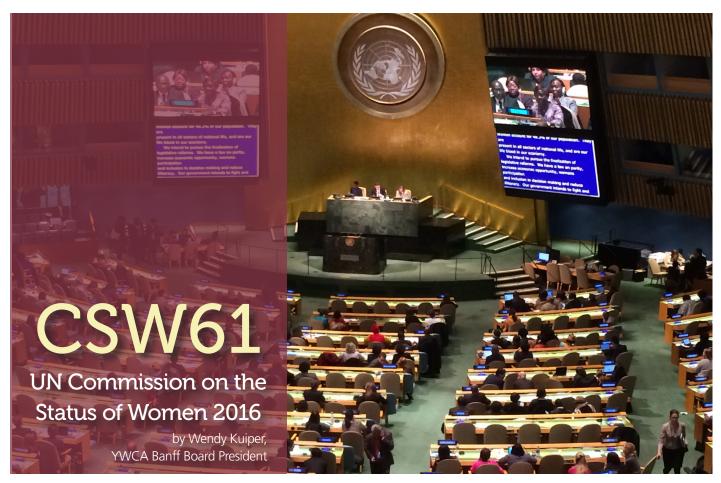
The Lake Louise RCMP and Lake Louise Fire Department partner annually to host the Emergency Services Christmas Gala at the Chateau Lake Louise. This year's event took place on December 13 and \$10,000 was donated to the YWCA.

SONGS FOR SHELTER

The second annual Songs for Shelter featured local musicians Pat "Sully" Sullivan, Mike Petroff, Gord March and Julia Lynx. The event was held Friday, January 13 at the Canmore Miners' Union Hall to benefit the Bow Valley Women's Emergency Shelter, operated by YWCA Banff.

The concert was thought up by Petroff who wanted to help raise awareness for the shelter and the services it provides. It has proven to be a highly successful endeavor, with tickets selling out for the second year in a row.





This past March, three board members from YWCA Banff, including myself, were chosen to attend the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). We had an amazing and eye-opening experience being part of such a large global movement! We attended with the National Canadian YWCA board members and staff to form a larger delegation to represent part of the World YWCA.

The UNCSW promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women globally as well as inform the greater UN as a whole on the current realities of life as a woman in all countries of the world. During this annual session, UN representatives, nonprofits and other women centred organizations from all over the world meet to discuss progress being made on various previous Action Platforms, and make new declarations to guide the countries of the UN in creating a safe and fair reality for women everywhere. The two main themes of this session were Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World

of Work, and the Empowerment of Indigenous Women.

We were given full access to all meetings, sessions, talks and presentations going on from 8-6 every day at the United Nations Headquarters, and we were also allowed to view the actual discussions from all the UN representatives regarding the main goal of updating a previous platform. Watching the world's countries come together to try to change inequality was inspiring and moving. Each country has their own ideas about equality and it was exciting to hear about small and large changes being made that will greatly impact the lives of women and girls in their everyday lives. It was also a good reminder to those of us in first world countries to remember how much women had to fight to get us to the place we are today. Many countries I observed were just starting that process.

Some examples of sessions I attended are "Combatting Growing Incidents of Forced Labour of Woman Migrants

and Refugees" put on by the UN, "Changing the Discourse of Men and Boys Re: Gender Inequality" put on by Iceland, and "Peaked Cap Project (Indigenous Girls Resiliency)" put on by Canada.

Being at this massive and influential event was moving and we all came back with a new outlook about the status of women throughout the world. It was important to represent Canada and the support the World YWCA in their goals for the actions being discussed. Also, despite a snowstorm that resulted in a full day closure of the UN, the Canadian delegation was able to re-locate and still present a full presentation about the status of indigenous women in Canada. We Canadians are tough!

This was an amazing experience and I hope to be able to return to the CSW, and that many of our YWCA colleagues get an opportunity in the future to participate in such an important and eye-opening commission!

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We are so grateful for the ongoing support from all donors and sponsors of the YWCA. We sincerely apologize if we have accidentally omitted your name from the above lists.

FINANCIALS

YWCA BANFF Statement of Financial Position Excerpt from Audited Financial Statements

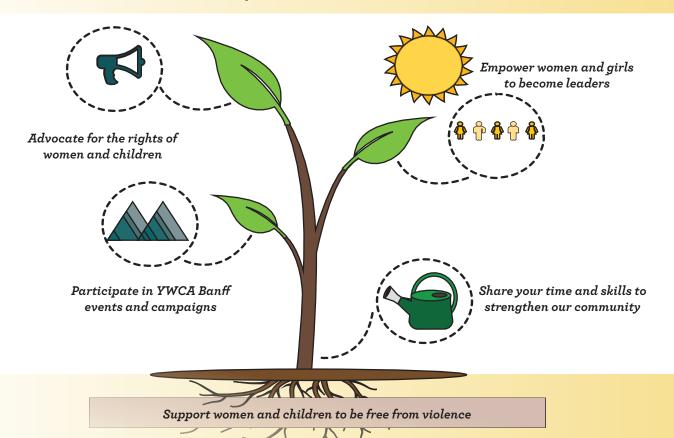
As of March 31	2017	2016
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	501,145	197,622
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	725,352	595,886
Accounts Receivable	5,568	1,177
Inventory	5,044	12,606
Prepaid Expenses	6,024	6,231
	1,243,133	813,522
Capital Assets	4,338,249	4,449,524
	5,581,382	5,263,046
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	331,659	164,547
Demand Mortgage Loans	1,916,594	2,062,055
Damage Deposits	15,278	14,921
Customer Deposits	96,147	38,258
Deferred Contributions	639,819	505,782
	2,999,497	2,785,563
Deferred Capital Contributions	1,881,317	1,860,752
	4,880,814	4,646,316
Net Assets		
Invested in Capital Assets	605,836	605,538
Internally Restricted	70,255	75,183
Unrestricted	24,477	(63,991)
	700,568	616,730
	5,581,382	5,263,046

FINANCIALS

YWCA BANFF Summarized Statement of Operations Excerpt from Audited Financial Statements

Years ended March 31	2017	2016
Revenue		
Social Enterprise	1,204,045	987,689
Permanent Residence	579,064	582,493
Grants	404,670	168,364
Donations and Fundraising, restricted	258,790	226,864
Conferences and Groups	172,866	177,939
Food, Beverage, and Merchandise	107,946	213,971
Capital Contributions Recognized	94,703	98,868
Other	39,026	22,064
Donations and Fundraising, unrestricted	29,080	47,690
Programs and Services	287	833
Total Revenue	2,890,477	2,526,775
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	1,471,405	1,194,362
Building Occupany	465,486	338,014
Amortization - Capital Assets	237,578	251,556
General and Administrative	200,219	166,856
Fundraising	192,462	210,527
Other Social Enterprise, Permanent Residence, and Group	70,963	65,473
Interest on Long Term Loan	62,735	66,606
Food, Beverage, and Merchandise	58,697	75,371
Programs and Services	47,094	30,340
Operating Expense	2,806,639	2,399,105
Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	83,838	127,670

How Can You Help? Become a YWCA Banff Member!





Moral support for our organization is critical to our success. We welcome everyone to become a member.

Contact Ancy Viegas to sign up:

ancy@ywcabanff.ca (403) 760-3218

Or Register Online at: ywcabanff.ca/how-you-can-help/membership/