



MEDIA RELEASE: For Immediate Release

May 29, 2018

**CALGARY WOMEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER ACHIEVES ACCREDITATION FROM
IMAGINE CANADA'S STANDARDS PROGRAM AND CANADIAN ACCREDITATION COUNCIL**

CALGARY, AB: The Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter has been accredited under Imagine Canada's national Standards Program and the Canadian Accreditation Council. With this achievement, the agency continues to Take a Stand Against Family Violence and Abuse and joins a growing community dedicated to operational and service delivery excellence.

The Standards Program is a Canada-wide set of shared standards for charities and nonprofits designed to strengthen practices. The goals of Imagine Canada's Standards Program are to increase the transparency of charities and non-profits, and to strengthen public confidence in individual organizations and the sector as a whole. Being an accredited organization shows the organization's excellence and compliance in five key areas of operations: board governance, financial accountability and transparency, fundraising, staff management, and volunteer involvement.

In September 2017, the agency was also successful in being accredited through the Canadian Accreditation Council. Six programs and services offered by the agency received the highest rating possible, meeting the highest industry standard: the 24-Hour Family Violence Helpline, Emergency Shelter, Child and Adolescent Services (Children's Activity Centre and Children's Outreach Program), Community Services Counselling Program and the Court Program. Being accredited through the Canadian Accreditation Council shows that the agency has viable structures, processes and practices to ensure stability and success, offering the best possible service delivery to those impacted by family violence and abuse. The agency is working towards achieving accreditation of the whole agency and is now going through the process with their remaining programs: Healthy Relationships and Men's Counselling Service.

"Taking part and excelling in both of these processes is another step we took to ensure that our clients, stakeholders and the broader public know that our agency is committed to excellence in accountability, transparency and governance," states Kim Ruse, Executive Director, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter, "We will continue to Take a Stand Against Family Violence and Abuse by offering the best possible services, through the highest practices and processes, and ethical standards."

For more information on Imagine Canada and the Standards Program: www.imaginecanada.ca.

For more information on the Canadian Accreditation Council: www.canadianaccreditationcouncil.ca.

ABOUT THE CALGARY WOMEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER The Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter is focused on ending family violence and abuse in the lives of women, children, youth and men. "Taking a Stand Against Family Violence" in the community since 1974, the agency has helped more than 200,000 Calgarians build safe lives and healthy relationships. Although the Emergency Shelter is the cornerstone of the organization, it is "More than a Shelter", providing a number of innovative safety, healing and prevention programs. For more information visit: www.calgarywomensshelter.com.

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