

The 2020-2021

Report to the Community

From the Zebra Child Protection Centre



zebra
Child Protection Centre

greetings from our board of directors

On behalf of the Zebra Child Protection Centre Board of Directors, CEO, staff and volunteers, we are pleased to present our 2020-2021 report to the community. For nearly 20 years the Zebra Child Protection Centre has been our community's response to child abuse. We are grateful to be in the community supporting children and youth who need us most.

This has been a challenging time for so many, but with perseverance and determination, the Zebra Centre has navigated the COVID-19 pandemic without ever having to close our doors. This resulted in our multi-disciplinary team of staff, volunteers, and partners helping 3,844 children and youth last year.

The pandemic underscored the dangers of internet use, that not every home is a safe place and the importance of equipping ourselves with the tools to identify and report abuse. We saw a decline in reporting when the pandemic first hit, but soon we saw a sharp increase in reporting and files coming to our Centre.

As we navigate the ever-changing impacts of the pandemic, we are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of our community.

We said farewell to Cheryl Diebel in 2020, who served as CEO of the Zebra Centre for nearly 2 years. Her contributions to strengthening the Zebra Centre and our mandate will be lasting. In February 2021, we welcomed Emmy Stuebing as the new CEO, and with her energy, dedication and optimism, we are all looking forward to the future of the Zebra Centre.

We know that children and youth are naturally resilient – given the right tools and supports, they can move along their healing journey and live a thriving life. Through the pandemic and beyond, the Zebra Centre is committed to keeping our doors open to help children and youth who have experienced abuse. Our team helps them to navigate the disclosure, investigative, judicial and healing process. Together, we are providing hope!



2020-2021 Board of Directors:

Chair: Allison McCollum

Vice Chair: Chelsea Barlow

Treasurer: Chris Schulte

Secretary: Mary Michailides

Director: Jennifer Davis

Director: Darren Eastcott

Director: Carol Hrenyk

Director: Karen Macmillan

Director: Gavin Millan

Director: Arreg Gasqas

Director: Lindsay Yakimyshyn

Director: Kate Zalaski

Alberta Children's Services

Representative: Kathi Campbell

Edmonton Crown Prosecution

Representative: Shelley Bykewich, Q.C.

Edmonton Police Service

Representative: Inspector Seán Armstrong

Chief Executive Officer: Emmy Stuebing

our impact

Between the inherent vulnerability of children, the intimidation of the court experience, the work of a Crown Prosecutor is a challenging one as we look to find a secure environment for a child to communicate their evidence. Zebra permits a Crown Prosecutor to focus on their case, on the law, and on the other aspects of a prosecution. Zebra bridges the gap between a case that can proceed and a case that fails. Their work allows a Crown Prosecutor to pursue a just outcome knowing that the needs of the victim are being carefully addressed by Zebra staff and volunteers throughout the process.

During the pandemic, Zebra worked hard and continued its exemplary service the community has come to expect from them. The first case where a child testified from Zebra for a trial held at a courthouse in Calgary was heard this year. These applications, previously unheard of, have become part of the fabric of our prosecutions.

Sony Singh Ahluwalia- Deputy Chief Prosecutor |
Edmonton Prosecutions

The key to the success of the Centre is the partner coordination done by the Zebra staff, along with the child advocacy, trauma referrals and court accompaniment work done by the staff and volunteers.

Enyinnah Okere-
Chief Operations
Officer Community
Safety & Well-being
Bureau | Edmonton
Police Service

Seán Armstrong-
Inspector Integrated
Community Safety
Division | Edmonton
Police Service

The Zebra Child Protection Centre is recognized as a Centre of excellence for the support it provides to children and families across the province. Children's Services is a key partner of the Zebra Child Protection Centre, which serves some of Alberta's most vulnerable children and youth, often in a time of major crisis within their family. We work closely with the Zebra Centre to ensure children are safe and protected.

Judy Shine, MSW RSW- Associate Director |
Edmonton Region Children's Services

mission

To provide a collaborative response to child abuse through intervention, advocacy, and a continuum of support in a child-friendly environment.

vision

A community where every child is heard and respected and child abuse is not tolerated. The Zebra Child Protection Centre will be recognized as the leader in child advocacy.

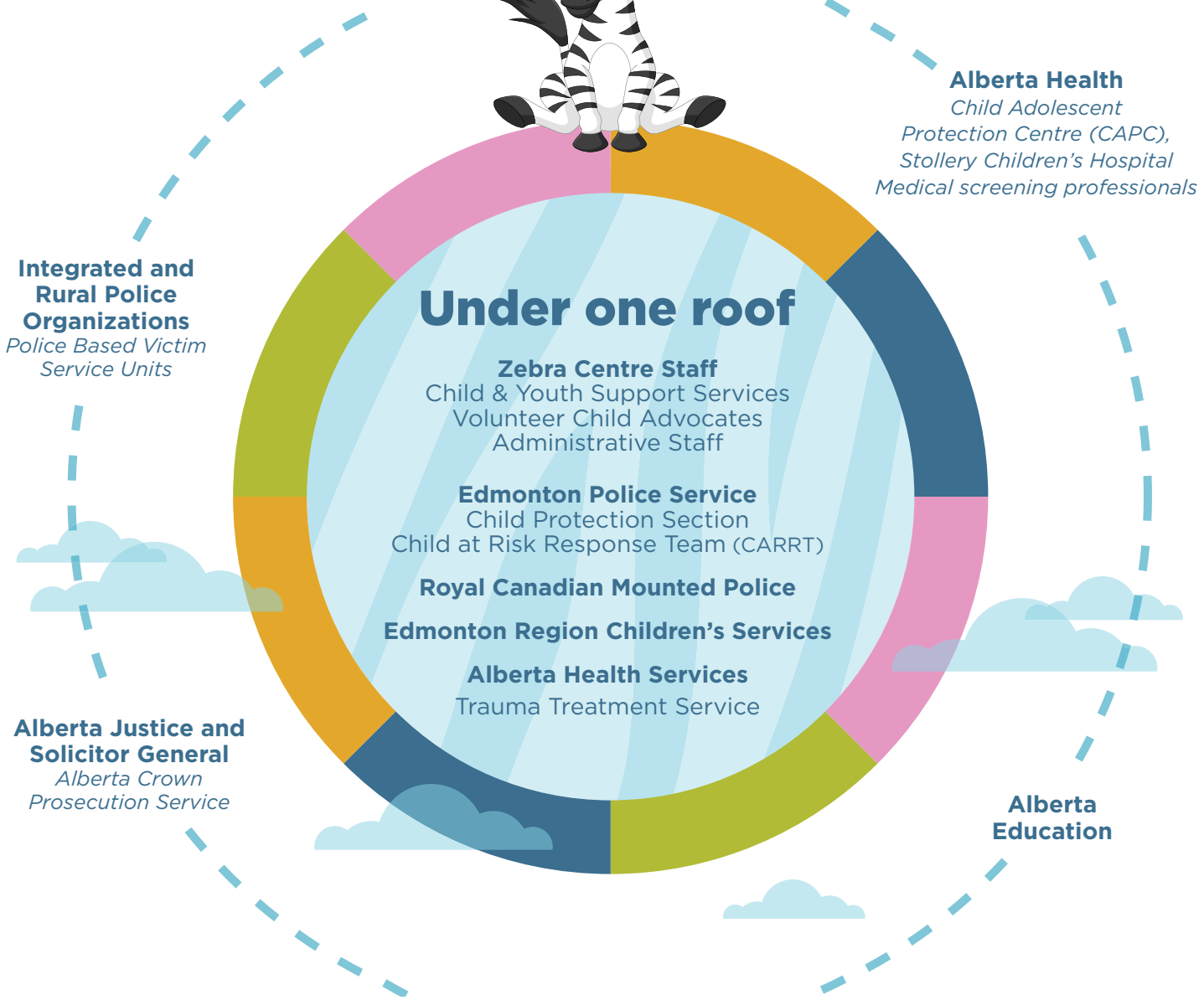


our herd

The Zebra Child Protection Centre is proud to be a part of a multidisciplinary team of over 50 professionals from six organizations.

In the wild, zebras form a protective circle around their young. The adult zebra's stripes work together so you

can't tell where one zebra begins and another ends - protecting the young inside from danger. Our multidisciplinary team works the same way. Together with our on-site, off-site partners and volunteers, we work to protect children and youth throughout Edmonton and the surrounding area.



persevering through COVID-19

COVID-19 posed many challenges for nonprofits all across the country and the Zebra Centre was no different. With most fundraising events canceled in 2020, we quickly had to navigate the changing landscape and pivot to virtual activities. Operationally, we also had to quickly adjust to ensure our Centre stayed safely open for our community members who needed us most.

Like many organizations, we limited our onsite footprint to essential personnel providing direct services, and adjusted for other staff to work remotely.

With so many children and youth at home for extended periods and with limited external interactions, we saw impacts on our caseloads. With instances of abuse on the rise, our Alberta CACs worked together to increase awareness about child abuse in our communities, how to identify and report suspected cases of abuse.

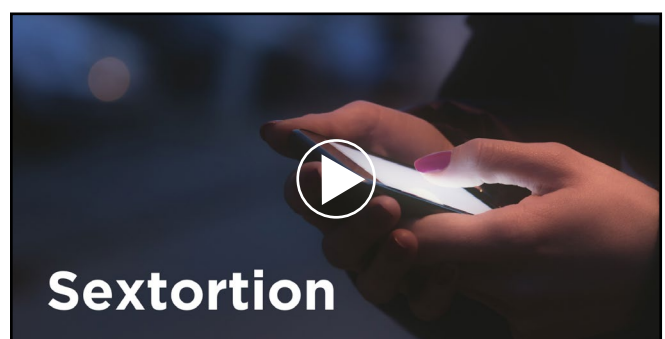
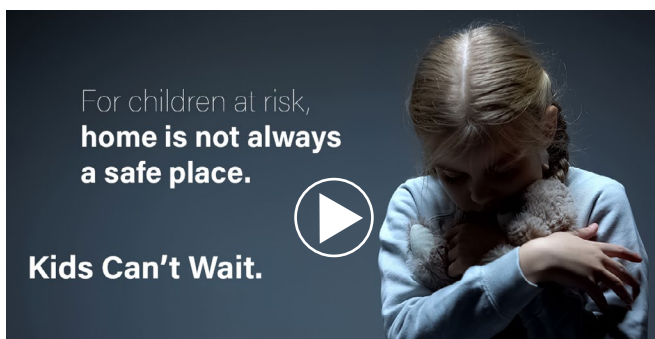
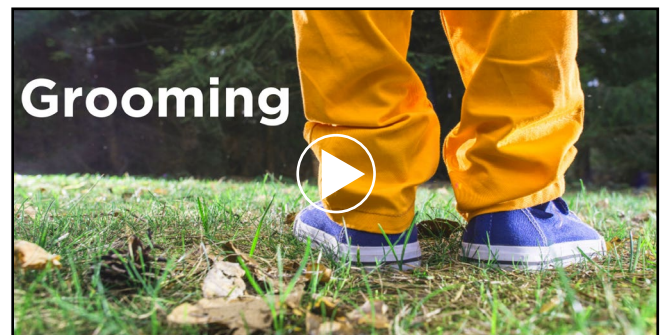
In response, a PSA video, *Kids Can't Wait*, was released in collaboration with the Toba Centre for Children and Youth from Winnipeg.

Together, our Alberta CAC network worked to create roundtable discussions with professionals from our different CACs, *CACs Connect*, which included identifying different ways that abuse can occur and

preparing our community members to identify these occurrences and report.

We were very happy to continue to provide our essential services to our community. We are grateful to our staff, partners, volunteers and community for adjusting so quickly with us and keeping the Zebra Centre safe.

CACs CONNECT



supporting children & youth every step of the way

The Zebra Centre supports children and youth from the moment of disclosure – where they tell their story of abuse – through the criminal investigation, court process and healing journey.

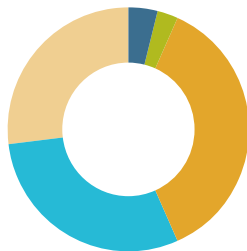


a safe place where kids can tell

Through 2021 we supported **3,844** children and youth.

AGE WHILE BEING SUPPORTED

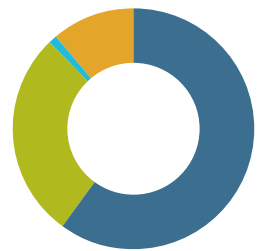
0-5 years	4%
6-11 years	3%
12-17 years	37%
18+ years	30%
Unknown	27%



**All numbers rounded to the closest whole percentage.
The Zebra Child Protection Centre supports children and youth through their entire healing journey, which could take many years. We also support older youth who may have served as a witness to a file and adults with delayed cognitive functioning.

REASON FOR REFERRAL

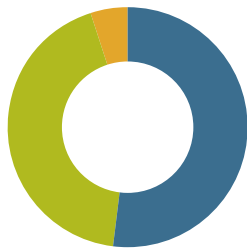
Sexual Abuse	60%
Physical Abuse	28%
Witness to a crime	1%
Other	11%



**All numbers rounded to the closest whole percentage.
These do not occur in isolation. Children who come to the Zebra Centre often experience more than one type of abuse.

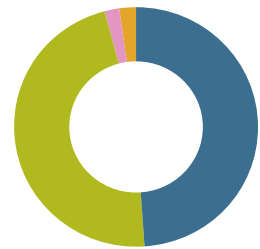
WHO WE SUPPORTED

Female	52%
Male	43%
Non-Binary	5%



SOURCE OF REFERRAL

Edmonton Police	825
RCMP	768
Children's Services	2%
Other	2%



**Includes other policing agencies, such as Internet Child Exploitation Unit.
Percentages rounded to the closest whole percentage.



She felt better knowing she wouldn't need to retell her experience over and over again.



Zebra Centre Caregiver

every child has a story

It's our job at the Zebra Child Protection Centre to listen.



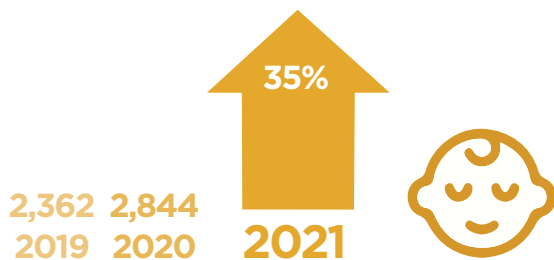
"The Centre is peaceful and welcoming. The decor promotes an environment of calm and safety that improves the mood of any individual who enters. There is also a sense of privacy here that is not seen in most areas that provide public services."



Zebra Centre Caregiver

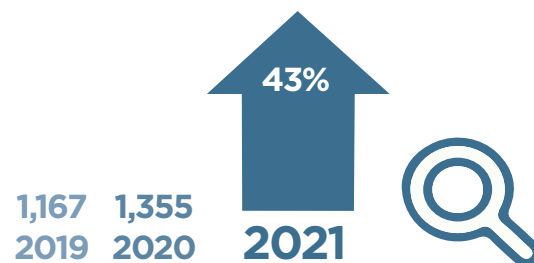
3,844

children and youth supported by the Zebra Child Protection Centre



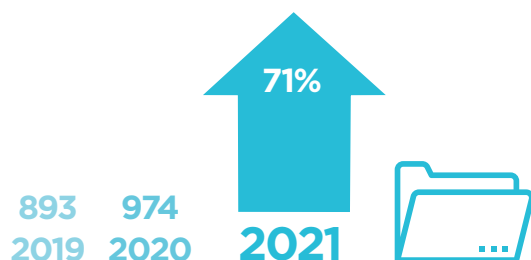
1,938

forensic interviews conducted at the Zebra Child Protection Centre



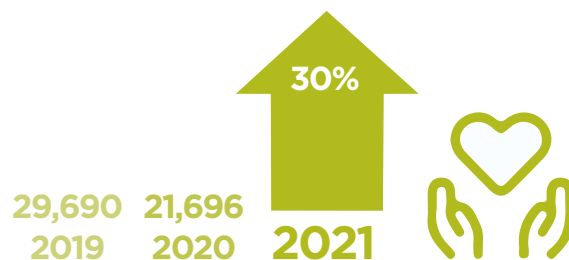
1,666

new files referred to the Zebra Child Protection Centre for support



28,232

support services provided to children, youth and families



sometimes the best support comes on four legs

An important part of the support children, youth and their families experience at the Zebra Centre is the Very Important Paws (VIP) program, consisting of Accredited Facility Dogs. With no words spoken, they provide our children and youth with the strength to speak their truth, whether that is at the Zebra Centre or in the Edmonton Law Courts. Their ability to relieve stress and anxiety is astounding. In 2020, our VIP Program saw many changes with a retirement party and two new additions to our herd.



Wren



Fletcher



Captain



Triggs

A RETIREMENT PAWTY

After seven years supporting children, youth and their families at the Zebra Centre, Wren retired on February 27, 2020. Wren made history in Edmonton Law Courts as the first facility dog allowed to support a child on the stand while giving a testimony. Throughout her last working year, Wren supported children, youth and their families 265 times.



CAPTAIN AND TRIGGS JOIN THE HERD

We were delighted to introduce two new members to our Multidisciplinary Team: Triggs and Captain. Triggs and Captain are Accredited Facility Dogs trained by Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society. Triggs and Captain joined VIP Program team member, Fletcher, in October 2020 to start their roles of supporting children and youth within the Centre, during their forensic interviews and helping them navigate the judicial process at the Edmonton Law Courts.

TRIGGS new position within our VIP Program was sponsored by Ladies on the Green Golf Classic. Triggs primary role is providing support and comfort to children, youth and their non-offending caregivers while they visit our Centre and tell their story.

CAPTAIN is primarily working at the Edmonton Law Courts supporting children, youth and their non-offending caregivers within the child-friendly waiting rooms and, on the stand, as they testify against the accused.

Triggs and Captain will both help children and youth celebrate their bravery as they use their voice to tell their story.



We are so excited to have Triggs and Captain join our VIP Program here at the Centre. Having two more dogs in our program is crucial in allowing us to continue offering the unique support and comfort for our children and youth that no human can offer. The ability Facility Dogs have to relieve the stress that children and youth can feel is amazing to witness, and we are so grateful to add Triggs and Captain to our team. Working together - really does make a difference, thank you so much to Ladies on the Green, for helping make this moment a reality!



Allison McCollum, Board Chair
Zebra Child Protection Centre



DWW Captain and DWW Triggs are the perfect match for the important work ahead of them at the Zebra Child Protection Centre. They have each completed two years of advanced, specialized training allowing them to be trustworthy in the professional environments they will be working in. It is our pleasure to have these two handsome boys go to the Centre and we look forward to our continued partnership with this amazing organization. We are so proud.



Doreen Slessor, Executive Director
Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society



The Ladies on the Green community is thrilled to welcome Captain and Triggs to the Zebra Child Protection Centre team. We knew that directing funds raised through our event to support a new recruit for the VIP Program was essential. As the caseload continues to rise at the Centre, Captain and Triggs are needed more than ever. These dogs offer children comfort, empathy and unconditional support in some of their most difficult moments,



Emma Wynters and Carri Boulton
Co-founders of Ladies on the Green



cultural connections program

The goal of Zebra's *Cultural Connections Program* is to increase the knowledge base of all staff and partner agencies to more appropriately respond to the unique issues facing our children, youth and families. Additionally, through updates to our physical space we will be more visually reflective of the diversity in the Edmonton region, and in extension, the families we serve.

As part of this work we established a Diversity Committee in 2021, which includes a dozen volunteer members that contribute to our cultural growth. As we work to grow our *Cultural Connections Program* we have started our work with three Alberta organizations that are helping to improve the Zebra Centre. We have been honoured to work with Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, Centre for Sexuality and Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative.

Our work with Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society has included:

- Pipe ceremony at Zebra
- Smudge kits in each child friendly space at the Centre and at court for children, youth and families
- Land acknowledgement at our front desk and in our child friendly waiting rooms at court
- Books in each room
- Artwork to reflect the 7 sacred teachings
- Practice as Ceremony Training for staff, partners and volunteers

Our work with the Centre for Sexuality has included:

- An audit of our space, policies and practices
- Creating a Culture of Respect for Gender and Sexual Diversity training for staff, volunteers and partners

Our work with Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperation (MCHB) has included:

- Updating our resource materials, such as, our Caregivers Guide and Welcome Guide, into seven different languages.
- Our staff, partners and volunteers participated in Foundations of Intercultural Competence Training. The focus of this training was for both informational and practical approaches to cultural competence such as differences in immigration and newcomer statuses, immigration trends and area demographics.



I found the teaching so valuable because it taught me about what Ceremony means as well as how I can support our families with this information and way of living. I was so pleased with what I gained from this not only for my work, but also in my personal life.



Zebra Centre Staff Member



It was a pleasure to receive a teaching from Christie. She opened up her heart and shared her journey with us to give us a glimpse of intergenerational trauma and resiliency. Her advice will help support Indigenous families with respect and curiosity. Hiy Hiy!



Zebra Centre Staff Member



it takes a herd

Sometimes a child or youth just needs to feel the support of someone who is looking out for them – that’s the role of our Zebra Child Protection Centre volunteers. We couldn’t continue to advocate for the rights of children if it wasn’t for the Zebra Child Protection Centre volunteers. Armed with the ability to provide help, support and understanding for a child, our volunteers fill a critical role within the Zebra Child Protection Centre.

ROLES

- Administrative Volunteers
- Child Advocate Volunteers
- Court Accompaniment Volunteers
- Event Volunteers
- Research Volunteers
- Board of Directors Volunteers
- Various Committee Volunteers

4,646 hours donated

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2020

The Zebra Centre would not be the same without all the amazing volunteers that donate their time! We had our volunteers share with us why they donate their time to our Centre. ([CLICK the links to view their videos](#))



- [Gabby](#)
- [Gaby](#)
- [Chelsea](#)
- [Raeesa](#)
- [Andre](#)
- [Cindy](#)
- [Sabrina](#)

Our mandate is simple, we make quilts, backpack bags and gift bags all for the Zebra Child Protection Centre. Our aim is to make quality quilts, the same as we make for our own families, no corners cut.

Central Sewing Westend Volunteer Group

We are proud to be affiliated with the Zebra Centre and the work you all do for our most vulnerable population.

Centre High Campus

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY 2020

Each year the Zebra Centre honours a few outstanding members of our community to be recognized at the Association of Fundraising Professionals National Philanthropy Day Awards Celebrations!

As first responders, we strive every day to protect our communities. Children are the future of those communities. Every child deserves to be protected from trauma and given a voice to be heard. The Edmonton First Responders Rodeo Association is proud to partner with the Zebra Centre to help protect our communities’ children.

First Responders Rodeo Association

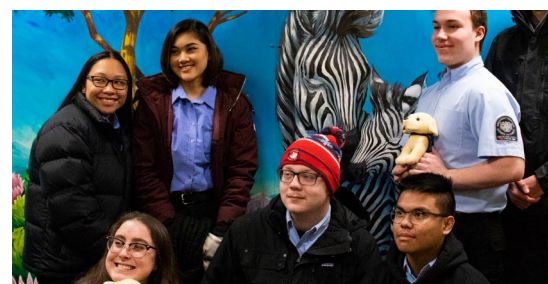
Volunteering at Zebra is both a privilege and a great responsibility. A privilege to be a part of every families’ journey as they face their own unique adversity and challenges. A privilege to be able to offer support to families in a meaningful way and knowing that every interaction has an impact. It is also a great privilege to represent an organization that is a leader in this field, incredibly supportive to volunteers and well-respected in the community. It is my responsibility to continually improve my knowledge, skills and capabilities in order to always do the best I can. The responsibility to myself to continually grow and learn on my path of self-discovery and to always be respectful of what each family teaches me. I feel thankful for being able to volunteer at Zebra and for each staff member and family that I volunteer alongside.

Sonya Salamon

showing their stripes

It takes a herd to help the children and youth who come to the Zebra Centre, and we are so grateful to our community for their amazing support. Every donation, fundraising activity and word spoken about child abuse make a difference and bring us closer to a world where child abuse doesn't exist.

Our community is the reason we are able to provide the resources and support to children and youth who have experienced abuse. Thank you for the tremendous support over the past year.

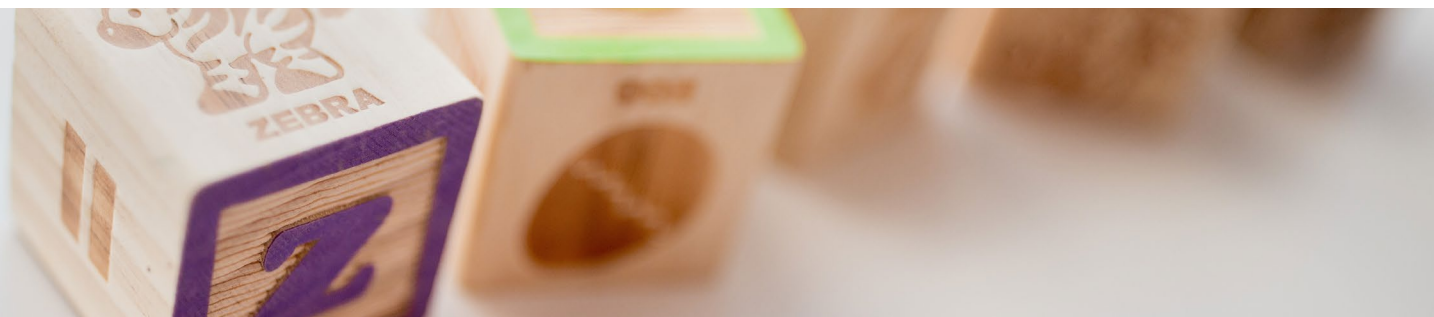


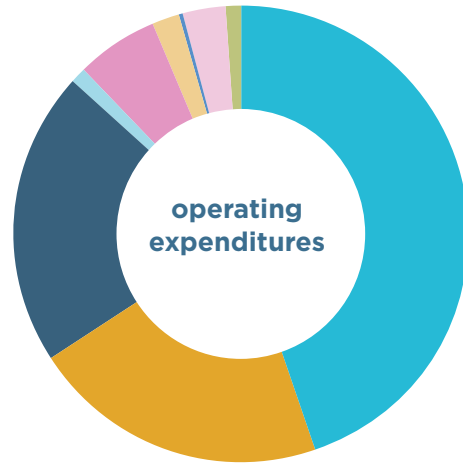
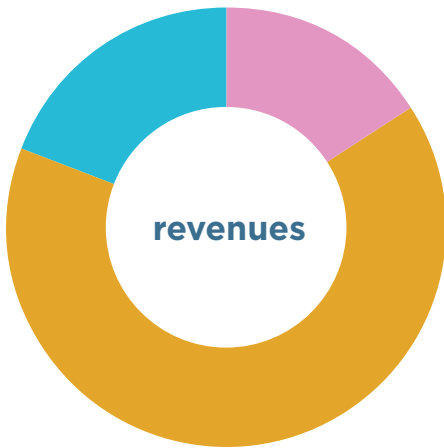
financials

Zebra Child Protection Centre Society Statement Of Financial Position April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

	March 31 2021	March 31 2020
ASSETS		
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash	2,593,169	2,773,943
Short-term Investments	26,901	19,347
Accounts Receivable	100,902	25,385
Prepaid Expenses	14,461	28,528
	2,735,433	2,847,203
<u>Capital Assets</u>	117,687	96,948
	2,853,120	2,944,151
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
<u>Current</u>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	183,111	170,783
Deferred Rent Reimbursement	24,445	30,626
Deferred Contributions - Operating	986,287	1,519,442
Deferred Contributions - Casino	120,821	184,626
	1,314,664	1,905,477
Deferred Contributions - Capital	93,628	
Canada Emergency Business Account Loan	30,000	65,650
	1,438,292	1,971,127
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	754,153	805,110
Internally Restricted	636,616	136,616
Invested in Capital Assets	24,059	31,298
	1,414,828	973,024
	2,853,120	2,944,151

Financial Position is audited.





Partner Contributions & Donations In-kind	\$402,462
Grants/Deferred Casino/Deferred Asset	\$1,589,572
Donations/Interest	\$455,661
	<hr/>
	\$2,447,695

Salaries And Benefits	\$1,019,526
Occupancy Costs	\$467,285
Children And Family Support	\$484,133
Fundraising	\$21,296
Office And IT Support	\$124,758
Professional Development	\$47,698
Advertising And Communication	\$7,655
Very Important Paws (VIP) Program	\$68,996
Volunteer Management	\$20,109
	<hr/>
	\$2,261,456

The April 1st, 2020 to March 31st, 2021 full Zebra Child Protection Centre Society Audited Financials are available for review at Zebracentre.ca.



Zebra Child Protection Centre

Suite 720, 10909 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB, T5J 3L9
780-421-2385

zebracentre.ca

#kidscantell



@ZebraCentre

To Report Abuse

Edmonton Police Service
780-423-4567

Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-387-5437

Your Local RCMP Detachment