



**Annual Report**

**“You made my  
world happy.”**

Zebra Child, 15



## greetings from our board chair



On behalf of the Zebra Child Protection Centre Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, we are pleased to present our 2016 annual report – celebrating 15 years of giving a voice to children and youth in our community.

Formed in 2002 as the first Child Advocacy Centre of its kind in Canada, the Zebra Child Protection Centre revolutionized how survivors of child abuse were supported in our community. Our 15th anniversary is a celebration, not only for the support we have provided, but for the commitment of a community who stand together with the common goal of creating a future where every child is heard.

We all have a responsibility to acknowledge that child abuse does happen here – and with that responsibility comes a collective role in shining a light on the issue. Having to keep their abuse a secret is often a lie told to survivors by their abusers, but together we can lend our voices to children who haven’t yet found theirs.

In this report, you will learn of the impact we can have on survivors of child abuse and their non-offending caregivers. We ask that you help spread this message. Tell two friends, tell 10 or shout it from the rooftops. Our voices will tell survivors of child abuse that they can tell and they will be believed.

Thank you for your support of the Zebra Child Protection Centre over the past 15 years. We look forward to continuing to make an impact for years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Newton".

**Dawn Newton**

*Board Chair*

**“No one has ever  
listened like you do.”**

Zebra Child to her  
investigating detective

## Celebrating 15 years as the community's **response to child abuse**

Plans for the Zebra Child Protection Centre are approved by the Edmonton Police Service Chief's Committee.

Feb 2001

The Edmonton Law Courts is equipped with the first of two child-friendly waiting rooms, providing children with a safe place to wait during their day in court.

2003

The Zebra Child Protection Centre logo was transformed and the Centre's first website went live.

2005

The Zebra Child Protection Centre led the launch of the EPS "Kids Can Tell" child abuse awareness campaign.

2007

The Zebra Centre's 74 volunteers give 6598 hours to support children, youth and non-offending caregivers.

2009

The Zebra Child Protection Centre is renovated and expanded for the first time in 9 years.

2011

The Very Important Paws Program is created and facility dogs Wren and Fossey join the team at the Zebra Child Protection Centre.

2013

Facility dog Wren makes history as the first dog in Edmonton to support a child testifying on the stand

A memorandum of understanding and guiding principles are signed between Zebra Child Protection Centre partners.

Facility dog Fletcher joins Wren and Fossey as part of the Very Important Paws dogs at the Zebra Child Protection Centre.

2015

The Zebra Child Protection Centre opens as the first Child Advocacy Centre of its kind in Canada with one paid Zebra Centre staff member, 10 Edmonton Police Service detectives, five part-time social workers, five victim services volunteers and 70 files.

2002

Conviction rates for Zebra Centre investigations jump from less than 20% to 71% in the two years Zebra Centre has been open.

2004

The Chief Crown Prosecutor is given a position on the board of directors - solidifying the commitment of the justice system to support survivors of child abuse. Zebra Centre sees its highest yearly conviction rate as it jumps to 79%.

2006

The yearly tradition of hosting the Zebra Centre Kids' Christmas Party begins.

2008

The award-winning short film "Truth Be Told" is created to shine a light on the Zebra Child Protection Centre and spark a conversation about child abuse in our community.

2010

The Zebra Child Protection Centre celebrates its 10th anniversary. The official curriculum for the Court Preparation Program is developed.

2012

The RCMP joins the multidisciplinary team at the Zebra Child Protection Centre, helping us improve support and advocacy throughout northern Alberta.

The Zebra Child Protection Centre's strategic plan, mission and vision are renewed.

2014

Zebra Child Protection Centre moves offices - gaining an additional 1,000 square feet of space and doubling the amount of interview rooms and child friendly spaces. The Government of Alberta announces \$1.7 million in funding for Child Advocacy Centres in Alberta with \$400,000 dedicated to the Zebra Child Protection Centre.

2016

## mission

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

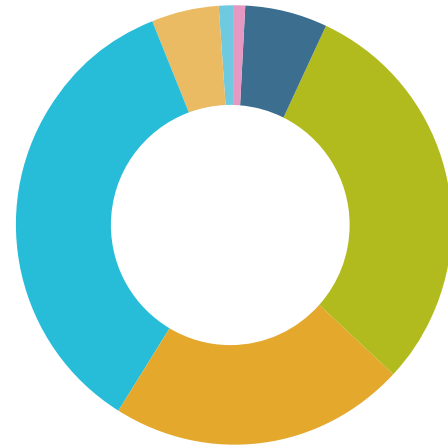
## vision

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.

## a place where kids can tell

Giving survivors of child abuse a voice.

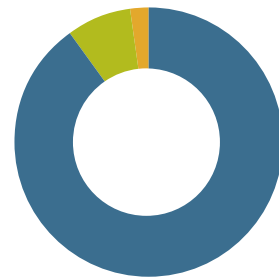
The children and youth who come to the Zebra Centre have a big job - to tell us their stories so that justice and healing can begin. We have a big job too - to provide a welcoming and comforting place where kids can feel safe to just be kids.



### AGE AT THE TIME OF REPORTING

Less than one year	1%
1-3 years	6%
4-7 years	30%
8-11 years	22%
12-15 years	35%
16-17 years	5%*
18+	1%*

\*The Zebra Child Protection Centre supports older youth who may have served as a witness to a file and adults with delayed cognitive functioning.



### TYPES OF ABUSE EXPERIENCED

Sexual abuse	90%
Child witness to criminal act	8%
Extreme physical abuse	2%



### WHO WE SUPPORTED

Female	71%
Male	29%

83% of survivors in 2016 knew their offenders.

COMMUNITY

**PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
Our public training and awareness presentations engage the community in the fight against child abuse.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND AMBASSADORS**  
Through events, donors, volunteers, and corporate supporters, the Zebra message is disseminated through the community.

**CULTURAL ATTUNEMENT PROGRAM**  
Making the Zebra Centre safe and inclusive for every child who walks through our doors.

**VERY IMPORTANT PAWS (VIP)**  
Wren, Fossey and Fletcher are here for children at the Centre and at the Edmonton Law Courts.

**COURT ACCOMPANIMENT**  
We'll send child advocates for support at each court appearance where the child is required to testify.

**COURT PREPARATION**  
Court preparation is a key step in addressing myths or fears that surround the court process.

**CRISIS RESPONSE**  
Providing 24 hour crisis response and advocacy to children who are in immediate need of support through the investigative process.

**FORENSIC INTERVIEW**  
A recorded conversation where the child can tell their story in a safe and comfortable environment.

**HOPE'S TOY CLOSET**  
A very special place where bravery is celebrated with a new toy or quilt.

**BACKPACK HOME PROGRAM**  
Every child in need leaves with the appropriate clothing, pajamas and personal items.

**SNACK BASKETS AND MEALS**  
Healthy snacks and meals are provided to children and their family members who visit our Centre.

**CHILD ADVOCACY**  
Our advocates are here to ensure a child's needs remain everyone's top priority.

**TRAUMA REFERRALS**  
Setting a child on the path towards healing with referrals to counselling and mental health professionals.

**CARE CALLS**  
Offering regular check-ins to offer file updates, referrals and emotional support.

**VICTIMS OF CRIME SUPPORT**  
Helping caregivers access support resources including victims of crime financial benefits and victim impact statements.

ADVOCACY & SUPPORT

DISCLOSURE & INVESTIGATION

our continuum



of support

COURT



## every child has a story

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

### Our impact in 2016

**Empowered, brave, heard and believed** – four words that describe how we want a child to feel after leaving the Zebra Child Protection Centre. Together as a team, we work towards this goal – supporting and advocating for survivors of child abuse through every step of the disclosure, investigative, judicial and healing process.

54

public education and awareness presentations offered

168

court dates attended by a court accompaniment advocate

210

court preparations conducted

588

new files referred to the Zebra Child Protection Centre for support

698

forensic interviews conducted at the Zebra Child Protection Centre

1,515

children and youth supported by the Zebra Child Protection Centre

6,798

care and support calls made to non-offending caregivers

13,260

support services provided to children, youth and families



## using our stripes

**When danger appears, zebras form a protective circle around their young – using their stripes so that predators can't tell where one zebra ends and another begins. Our multidisciplinary team works the same way.**

The Zebra Child Protection Centre is home to nearly 50 multidisciplinary staff from 4 onsite organizations and more than 60 volunteers. Throughout Alberta, nearly 100 organizations contribute to a brighter future without child abuse.

### SOURCE OF REFERRAL

RCMP	21%
EPS (CARRT)	65%
Edmonton Region Child & Family Services	8%
Other	6%*

\*Includes other policing agencies (i.e. Calgary Police Service and Internet Child Exploitation unit).

### LOCATION OF CASES

Edmonton	73%
Outside of Edmonton	27%

### Zebra Centre Multidisciplinary Team

- Alberta Children's Services
- Alberta Crown Prosecution Services
- Alberta Education
- Alberta Health
- Alberta Justice and Solicitor General
- Child Adolescent Protection Centre – Stollery Children's Hospital
- Child at Risk Response Team (CARRT)
- Edmonton Police Service
- Medical and mental health professionals
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Zebra Centre Board of Directors
- Zebra Centre staff
- Zebra Centre volunteers



Cases collaboratively supported by two or more partners : **100%**

**“I got to pet the dog at Zebra Centre and she made me feel safe.”**

*Zebra Child, 6*

## very important paws (vip) program

Sometimes the best support comes on four legs. Our three facility dogs, Wren, Fossey and Fletcher are expertly trained to provide a non-judgmental listening ear and a soft spot to cuddle.

In 2016, the Very Important Paws program received funding and support from the Bennett Jones Restoring Hope Breakfast and Ladies on the Green Golf Classic. Thank you to all Very Important Paws program supporters who contribute to the future of this very important program!



Times Wren, Fossey and Fletcher appeared on the stand at the Edmonton Law Courts in 2016



Court preparations conducted with the support of Wren, Fossey and Fletcher in 2016



Forensic interviews conducted with the support of Wren, Fossey and Fletcher in 2016



Meet and greets conducted by Wren, Fossey and Fletcher in 2016

## volunteers

**Cheerleader, colouring buddy, friendly neighbour, storybook reader, safe adult – just a few of the roles our volunteer advocates play within the Zebra Centre and at court.**

With 1,515 children and youth supported this year, we couldn't continue to advocate for their rights if it wasn't for our team of volunteers. Each of our volunteers brings a unique set of skills to ensure a child's needs remain everyone's top priority.



*Sometimes, it's the small things – the otherwise routine moments seen in the right light that inspire.*

It started as a typical evening. I'd just settled in, intent on calling a few families. As is often the case, however, something else arose. There was a Crown Prosecutor coming in to meet with a family for court preparation and needed a witness to join. Of course, I was happy to help.

One apparent goal of the meeting was to simply build rapport with the child, an adorable seven-year-old boy, and the prosecutor did a fantastic job. Asked about his favorite movie at one point, the kid offered "Shaun the Sheep." I had to chime in – "I love that show," I told him, "but haven't seen the movie."

That launched story-time. Our young Zebra Centre client had to tell me all about it – in incredible detail. He was glowing with excitement to share this with me, and even responded to an attempted interruption by the Crown Prosecutor with, "You really have to let me finish this story." We all laughed – the Crown, the boy's mother and myself – while he continued, undeterred, for at least ten more minutes.

Now, I don't know why this boy was going to court – sometimes it's best not to know – but afterward, I learned from a colleague that it was... well, bad. I could see, however, that at Zebra Centre, he felt happy and safe. Clearly, the wonderful people here are doing a great job. It was inspiring to see and I was honored to be small part of it.

**Submitted by Rick, volunteer child advocate**

**60+**  
volunteers

**3,969**  
volunteer hours donated in 2016

# Building a community of support

Every child experiencing abuse deserves a community to rally behind them in support. Our supporters join us because they too believe in a future without child abuse.

In 2016, the community hosted more than 50 fundraisers and events in support of the Zebra Child Protection Centre. In December, we brought back Diamond Disco, our signature fundraiser that featured an evening of dinner and dancing and raised more than \$30,000 for our Centre.

## Leading Edge Physiotherapy

"It is our privilege to be supporters and promoters of the Zebra Child Protection Centre. The work that is done within the Zebra Centre plays an absolutely essential role within the community. We are proud to support an organization that provides the compassion, care and protection that children deserve when confronting the devastating effects of child abuse. As a business that chooses to support charities where the impact of our support can be seen in the day-to-day lives of children, we will continue to offer our support to the Zebra Child Protection Centre far into the future."

*Leading Edge Physiotherapy (RunWild Marathon)*

## Ladies on the Green Golf Classic

"The Ladies on the Green Golf Classic is an annual event organized and hosted by a group of community-minded women (Emma Wynters, Christy Holtby, Hannah Barrington and Carri Boulton). Since 2014, Zebra has been the designated beneficiary of Ladies on the Green. We believe that every child who experiences abuse deserves a community to support them; as such Zebra Centre was a natural fit."

*Ladies on the Green planning committee*

## Procura Real Estate Services

"We are grateful for our partnership with Zebra Child Protection Centre and are honoured to support the organization through Procura's Signs of Change initiative. The benefits provided by the organization in providing a safe haven for vulnerable children who have experienced trauma and abuse are invaluable to our community. We recognize how Zebra's specialized support services, provided by trusted professionals, influence positive future outcomes for survivors of child abuse."

*Sherry Schluessel, Senior Managing Partner, Procura Real Estate Services*

**"Thanks for being there for us in our time of heartache. Our family really appreciated everything you did for us."**

Zebra Parent



# 2016 Board of Directors

Children have a voice on our board. The Zebra Child Protection Centre's Board of Directors provides strategic direction and inspires our community to get involved.

Chair: Dawn Newton

Past Chair: Grant Fedoruk

Vice Chair: Lillian Miedzinski

Treasurer: Allison McCollum

Secretary: Mary Michailides

Director: Corinne Saad

Director: Donald Langford

Director: Cheryl Watson

Edmonton Crown Prosecutions Representative: Michelle Doyle/Shelley Bykewich

Edmonton Police Representative: Mark Neufeld/Kevin Brezinski

CEO: Bob Hassel

**"Zebra helped me fight for what's right."**

Zebra Child, 11

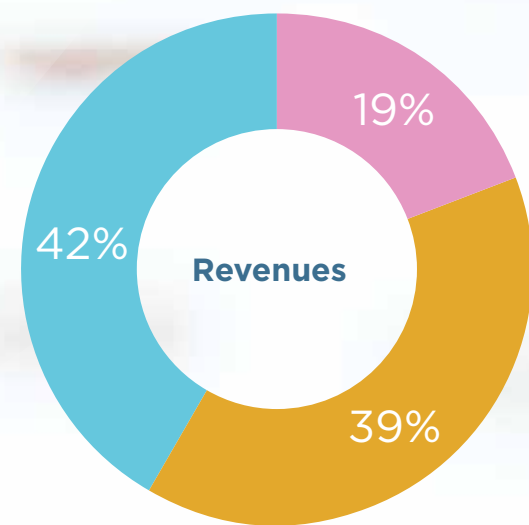




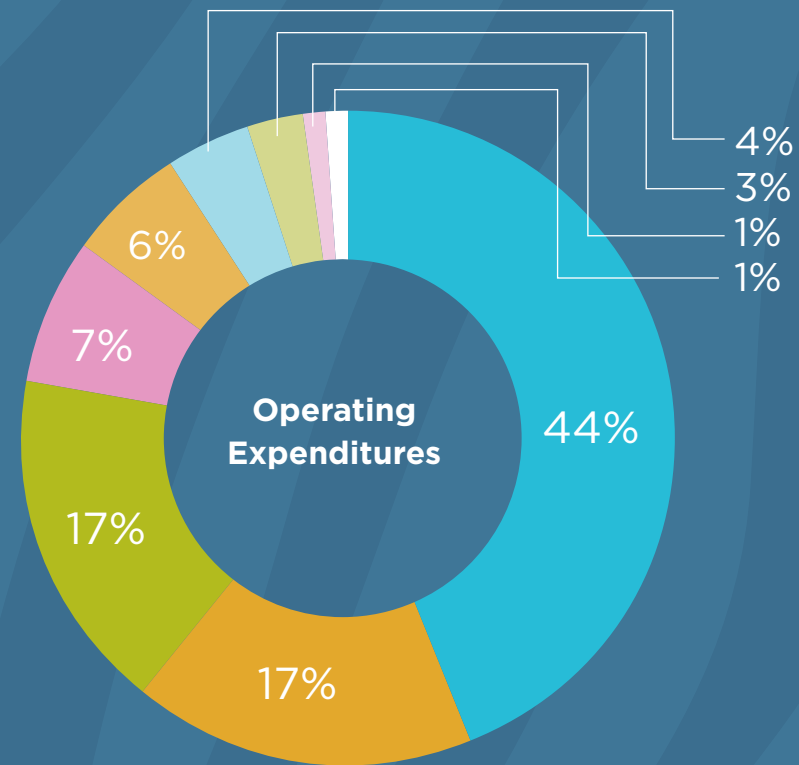
## financials

“The Zebra Child Protection Centre has provided support in our community for our most vulnerable children. Through a multidisciplinary approach, Zebra has brought many partners to the table in providing critical supports necessary with the foundational understanding that this work is everybody’s responsibility!”

*Founding Board Member*



Partner Contributions	\$303,952
Grants/Deferred Casino/Deferred Asset	\$644,595
Donations/Interest	\$695,782
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,644,329</b>



Salaries And Benefits	\$806,450
Occupancy Costs	\$303,952
Children And Family Support	\$303,226
Office And IT Support	\$133,674
Professional Development	\$105,269
Fundraising	\$81,629
Advertising And Communication	\$49,242
Very Important Paws (VIP) Program	\$20,000
Volunteer Management	\$16,253
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,819,695</b>

## Zebra Child Protection Centre Society Statement Of Financial Position As at Dec 31

	2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash	1,045,922	1,101,570
Short-term Investments	15,664	15,263
Accounts Receivable	37,658	7,137
Prepaid Expenses	4,808	3,811
	<b>1,104,052</b>	<b>1,127,781</b>
<u>Capital Assets</u>	162,092	273,423
	<b>1,266,144</b>	<b>1,401,204</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<u>Current</u>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	65,651	122,421
Deferred Contributions - Operating	728,155	496,912
Deferred Contributions - Casino	87,185	71,366
	<b>880,991</b>	<b>690,699</b>
Deferred Contributions - Capital	88,157	238,143
	<b>969,148</b>	<b>928,842</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	86,455	300,466
Internally Restricted	136,616	136,616
Invested in Capital Assets	73,935	35,280
	<b>296,996</b>	<b>472,362</b>
	<b>1,266,144</b>	<b>1,401,204</b>

For a complete copy of audited financial statements, please contact the Zebra Child Protection Centre



**Zebra Child Protection Centre**

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780-421-2385

**zebracentre.ca**

**#kidscantell**



**To Report Abuse**

**Edmonton Police Service**  
780-423-4567

**Child Abuse Hotline**

1-800-387-5437  
[www.edmontonandareacfsa.gov.ab.ca](http://www.edmontonandareacfsa.gov.ab.ca)