



zebra

Child Protection Centre

2018 Annual Report



2018 Board of Directors:

Chair: Dawn Newton

Vice Chair: Allison McCollum

Treasurer: John Beasley

Secretary: Mary Michailides

Director: Corinne Saad

Director: Cheryl Watson

Director: Jaret Farris

Director: Patti Brady

**Edmonton Crown Prosecution
Representative:** Shelley Bykewich

**Edmonton Police Service
Representative:** Supt. Debbie Jolly

Chief Executive Officer: Bill Meade

In December 2018, the Zebra Centre was proud to announce Cheryl Diebel as new Chief Executive Officer.



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 2018 Annual Report.

The Zebra Child Protection Centre is our community's response to child abuse. In 2018, 2,098 children, youth and their families were supported by the Zebra Centre, which represents a 30 per cent increase over 2017. Every child was able to tell their story in a safe space where they were heard, believed and supported. The Zebra Centre provides resources and guidance throughout the entire disclosure, investigative, judicial and healing process.

Each child responds to the trauma of abuse differently. Children are naturally resilient – given the right tools, surrounded by a community that cares, they can move beyond the hurt, knowing that they have told the truth and were believed. No child who comes to the Zebra Centre will have to live with shame or guilt.

At the Zebra Centre, we work closely with our partners to create a customized care and safety plan for every child that comes through our doors. With the support of our community we were able to ensure that each child received the resources they needed as they move through their healing journey.

This annual report illustrates our growth throughout 2018 with new programs, Zebra Centre staff and volunteers all dedicated to making a difference in the lives of thousands of children. Our community has been engaged and with us every step of the way showing how big the heart of our community is. We cannot undo what these children have experienced, but we can continue to make a difference in their lives now.

Dawn Newton

Board Chair

how our story began

Before the Zebra Centre opened in 2002, a child who had experienced abuse would be sitting outside an interview room at police headquarters. There were strange people, dressed in uniform, walking through the hallways past them. Concrete walls surrounded the child and fluorescent lights buzzed overhead.

There were no toys, blankets, or other comforts to provide a welcome distraction, no trained advocates to guide that child through what's about to unfold or to offer a reassuring smile. When it's time for their interview, the child would be called into a cold, grey interview room. It's the same room where suspects are interviewed.

Following the interview, that child was left to navigate the daunting criminal justice system and healing process on their own. They might have had to re-live that process many times, telling their story again and again, in many different buildings, to many different adults. Each time, telling their story becomes more and more difficult. That was 17 years ago, and now today, when a child experiences abuse, they arrive at our Centre.

The Zebra Child Protection Centre is our community's response to child abuse. The Zebra Centre is a place that welcomes them from the moment they step off the elevator with Child Advocates with them every step of the way.

Our multi-disciplinary team of partners is truly a herd that provides services and support throughout the entire journey. The Zebra Centre is a place where children's resiliency is seen and heard every day, as laughter echoes down the halls. It's a place where every child is believed, and bravery is celebrated.

When a child leaves they carry a bit of the Zebra Centre with them - knowing they are supported throughout the entire process and throughout their life journey. They are optimistic for what their bright future holds and so are we.

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.



“The staff were very friendly and supportive. Both the environment and staff made my child and I feel very comfortable and relaxed. As unfortunate as it is that we had to be there, the staff made it a good experience and we are lucky to have a service like this in Edmonton. Thank you!”

Zebra Centre Caregiver

our herd

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 multi-disciplinary team works the same way.

The Zebra Child Protection Centre is home to over 50 professionals from six organizations. Together with our off-site partners, we work together to protect children and youth throughout northern Alberta.

ON-SITE

Alberta Health Services

Child at Risk Response Team (CARRT)

Edmonton Police Service

Edmonton Region Children’s Services

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Zebra Centre Staff and Volunteers

OFF-SITE

Alberta Crown Prosecution Services

Alberta Education

Alberta Health

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

Child and Adolescent Protection Centre

Integrated and Rural Police Organizations



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.

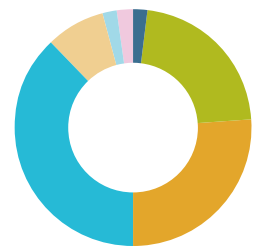


a safe place where **kids can tell**

In 2018, we supported **2,098** children and youth and **1,683** caregivers.

AGE AT THE TIME OF REPORTING

0-3 years	2%
4-7 years	22%
8-11 years	26%
12-15 years	38%
16-17 years	8%
18+	2%
Unknown	2%

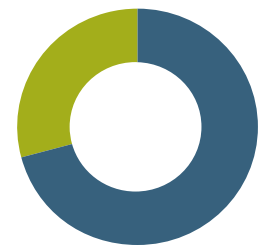


“The centre was absolutely amazing. Everyone was so kind and so nice.”

Zebra Centre Caregiver

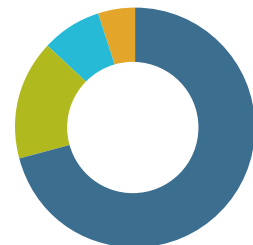
WHO WE SUPPORTED

Female	71%
Male	29%



REASON FOR REFERRAL

Sexual	71%
Physical	16%
Witness to a crime	8%
Other (internet crime, abduction, and others)	5%



It is important to note that each type of abuse does not occur in isolation - children and youth referred to the Zebra Centre often experience more than one type of abuse.



source of referral

Edmonton Police Service	64%
RCMP	31%
Children's Services	4%
Other policing agencies	1%





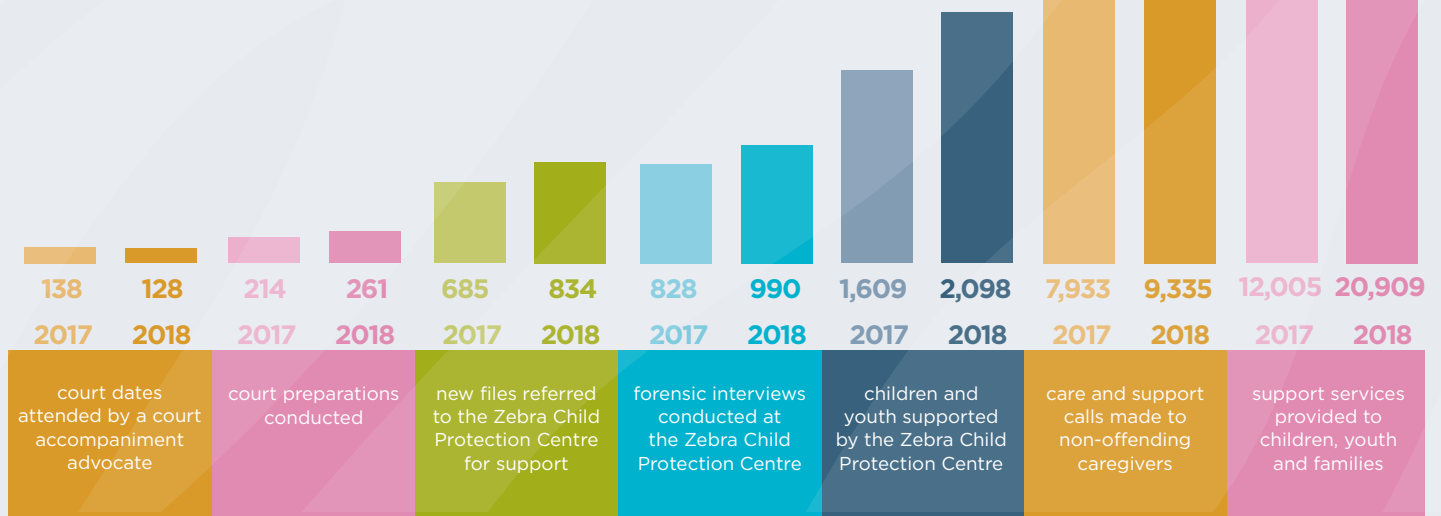
every child has a story

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

ZEBRA CHILD PROTECTION CENTRE STATISTICS

"I never knew this service was available and what I liked most about my experience was how the Zebra Centre contacted me the next day after my son's traumatic incident and offered help. Was amazing to receive the support when our family didn't know what to do, or where to go to find the help and support we need. Thank you!"

Zebra Centre Caregiver



court support

We are there every step of the way. Children and youth find justice and healing through our Court Support Program.

Our goal is to ensure children and youth know they are believed and get the opportunity to speak their truth, no matter the court outcome. The Zebra Centre extends our services throughout the entire court process by working with Alberta Crown Prosecution Services. Our support includes providing updates to families on court proceedings, preparing children for their day in court and addressing any fears they may have. An experience that is similar to the Zebra Centre has been created within the Court House by providing our children, youth and their families with a safe, secure place to wait at court and by accompanying them on the stand as they testify.

261 court preparations

245 children accompanied to court on 182 cases

2 child-friendly waiting rooms at the Edmonton Law Courts

VERY IMPORTANT PAWS

Sometimes the best support comes on four legs. Wren and Fletcher are the Very Important Paws (VIP) team at the Zebra Child Protection Centre. 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 and is just what each child who is supported by Wren or Fletcher needs to begin their healing journey.

81 times Wren and Fletcher supported children on the stand in the Edmonton Law Courts

157 times Wren and Fletcher eased fears during court preparation

208 meet and greets with children

101 forensic interviews accompanied, providing kids with the courage to tell their truth

“Zebra ensures that children are now treated and respected as children working to restore that which has been taken from them - their innocence, their youthfulness and their trust in adults.

Court is a scary place. It’s an environment full of rules and formalities. With the support of the Zebra Centre - we have taken kids through this incredibly adult process and helped them regain their voice.

As someone who sees the benefits of Zebra practically every day, I can’t imagine our community without this amazing working model of support. The Centre is a place where kids continue to come first and proof that working together does make a difference!”

Shelley Bykewich
Chief Crown Prosecutor
of Edmonton Prosecutions



new programs & growth

Zebra Child Protection Centre Introduces New Mental Health Program - Trauma Treatment Service

In January of 2018, Alberta Health invested \$1.2 million over three years, which allowed Alberta Health Services to add mental health professionals to the Zebra Centre multi-disciplinary team to support and provide resources to children and youth who have experienced abuse. This addition to the Zebra Centre's existing mental health program increased access to mental health supports and trauma intervention.

The Zebra Centre provided 20,909 client services in 2018. The investment from Alberta Health allowed us to respond to the increase in children coming to the Zebra Centre by providing more on-site services, including onsite intervention, mental health assessments, caregiver support and streamlined access to community resources.

"For children who've experienced the trauma of sexual or physical abuse, making sure mental health supports are provided as quickly as possible is extremely important. The Zebra Centre is well known for the range of services it provides to children and families across northern Alberta facing very difficult circumstances and we're proud to help support that work," says Sarah Hoffman, Minister of Health.

First Volunteer Coordinator

Our volunteers are critical to the work we do at the Zebra Centre. In 2018, the Zebra Child Protection Centre hired its first full-time Volunteer Coordinator. With 87 volunteers giving their time and dedication to the Zebra Centre, it's a big job coordinating our Volunteer Program. 4,667 hours were donated by our volunteers in 2017, therefore a need for a Volunteer Coordinator was prevalent. Our Volunteer Coordinator ensures each volunteer is prepared to help our children, youth and families to the best of their ability by providing thorough training, both in a classroom setting and through experience with families. Having a connection for our volunteers was instrumental in providing a seamless experience for the children, youth and families visiting the Zebra Centre as well as the delivery of services and resources we provide after their visit to the Zebra Centre.

"The kind staff and all the help there is. Makes me and my kids very comfortable."

Zebra Centre Caregiver



it takes a herd

Zebra Centre was created by community, for community, for kids within our community

The Zebra Child Protection Centre is our community's response to child abuse. We are able to provide the resources and care to children, youth and their families affected by abuse because of the amazing community that surrounds the Zebra Centre. Thank you to all our donors, supporters and sponsors whose generosity makes a difference in the lives of thousands of children and youth.

Our community makes a difference every single day. By listening, engaging and understanding that child abuse does occur we are making strides in reducing the prevalence within our community. Understanding the signs and how to help a child in need to supporting the Zebra Centre through monetary or in-kind donations each community member has the power to make a difference and demonstrate that child abuse will not be tolerated.

Prevention & Education

The Zebra Centre's multi-disciplinary team delivered 49 presentations to the public to increase awareness of the Zebra Child Protection Centre. These public presentations provide steps to take towards preventing child abuse in our community and education around supporting children and youth who have experienced abuse.

"We fell in love with the Zebra Centre after taking a tour five years ago. After experiencing every emotion possible, we knew then, Tahk Projects Ltd. would be a committed community partner and would join the Zebra herd to raise money and awareness for such an amazing organization."

John Beasley, VP of Finance, TAHK Projects Ltd.

"They did not have any opinions about the issue. They kept to the facts and that was appreciated. They also talked to my daughter like an adult - not a child as she responded better to that."

Zebra Centre Caregiver



kids standing up for kids

Youth in our community have taken a stand against child abuse and helped those affected find their voice. W.P. Wagner High School fundraised for the Zebra Centre through a 24-hour Bike-A-Thon raising more than \$134,000! Over 700 students proved that we will not tolerate child abuse in our community.



our community

Each year the Zebra Centre has the opportunity to honour a few outstanding members of our community to be recognized at the National Philanthropy Day Awards Celebration. In 2018, we honoured Jane Dinneen, Dominion Lending Centres and W.P. Wagner High School for their exceptional philanthropic initiatives towards the Zebra Centre. Our community steps up every year and shows us that we are a herd around our children and youth protecting them when they need it most.

Jane Dinneen

Since 2009, Jane Dinneen has been lending her voice to children and youth affected by abuse at the Zebra Child Protection Centre. As one of the Centre's longest-standing volunteers, Jane has volunteered in every single role, to provide children and youth with a safe place where they can tell their story. She personifies the Zebra Centre mandate - to support a child from the moment of disclosure, through the criminal investigation, court process, and healing journey. Jane's impact reaches far beyond a single role or moment and has changed thousands of lives in her nine years of service through responding to crisis calls, connecting with families, providing a listening ear and a juice box, reminding children of their bravery in court and sparking a conversation at community events.

Dominion Lending Centres

Through the Bikes for Kids initiative, Dominion Lending Centres mortgage professionals, vendors and lenders have donated more than 525 bicycles to children and youth affected by abuse at the Zebra Child Protection Centre since 2015. The bikes donated are much more than two wheels, a bell and a matching helmet. They represent the community rallying behind victims, helping them on their healing journey and ensuring that children and youth aren't defined by their trauma. Dominion Lending Centres gives the opportunity for children and youth affected by abuse who visit the Zebra Centre to just be kids again.

W.P. Wagner High School

In the wild, zebras form a protective circle around their young. In Edmonton, youth at W.P. Wagner High School do the same. Passionate teens and youth came together for a 24-hour bike-a-thon to raise more than \$134,000 to support children and youth who have experienced abuse. By knocking on doors, hosting bake sales, running bottle drives, setting up in grocery stores and more, over 700 students demonstrated the incredible power our youth have to make a difference and impact in our community.

volunteers

Sometimes a child 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. In 2018, the Zebra Centre Volunteers donated 22% more hours to the children and families we serve than the previous year. 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

Stats

87 volunteers

5,966 hours donated

“It is not an exaggeration to describe Zebra’s volunteer program as a “herd.” When I took over the volunteer program, there were 71 volunteers already engaged and a long list of people who wanted to become involved. But it’s not just about the number of volunteers we have – the people who give their time to Zebra are as incredible as they are numerous. They inspire me every day. They show up early, stay late, pick up extra shifts, take on additional challenges and come back week after week. They are not all doctors, lawyers, social workers, or therapists – they are community members, good neighbours who care about amplifying the voices of vulnerable children. You don’t have to be an expert in anything to volunteer with us. You just have to have a heart and want to give back.”

Neil Butt, Volunteer Coordinator

“The way the staff reached out to our family in all ways possible relating to the situation we were in, was comforting and strengthening during such a difficult time.”

Zebra Centre Caregiver



financials

Zebra Child Protection Centre Society Statement Of Financial Position

15-month period

(due to a fiscal year end date change)

January 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019

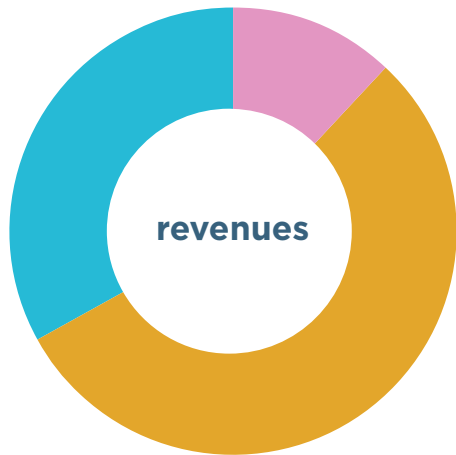
	March 31 2019	December 31 2017
ASSETS		
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash	2,293,409	1,210,252
Short-term Investments	15,001	15,785
Accounts Receivable	498,185	15,021
Prepaid Expenses	18,779	7,813
	2,825,374	1,248,871
<u>Capital Assets</u>		
	115,650	140,427
	2,941,024	1,389,298
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
<u>Current</u>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	172,755	75,606
Deferred Rent Reimbursement	26,866	-
Deferred Contributions - Operating	1,706,297	1,034,815
Deferred Contributions - Casino	106,850	62,521
	2,012,768	1,172,942
Deferred Contributions - Capital	74,762	84,267
	2,087,530	1,257,209
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	675,991	(60,687)
Internally Restricted	136,616	136,616
Invested in Capital Assets	40,887	56,160
	853,494	132,089
	2,941,024	1,389,298

Financial Position is audited.

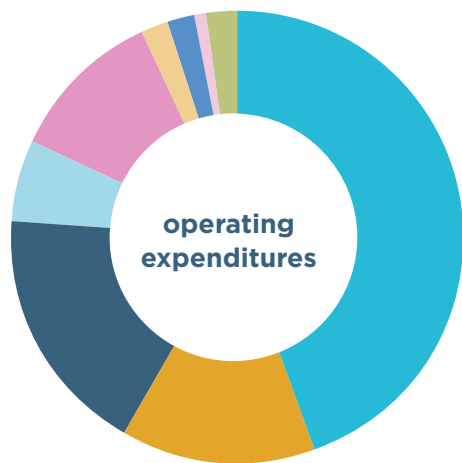
“The staff are very accommodating and helpful. We really felt the support of the whole team from the investigator to the reception, crown prosecutor, dog and staff who assisted us in the court.”

Zebra Centre Caregiver





Partner Contributions & Donations In-kind	\$358,161
Grants/Deferred Casino/Deferred Asset	\$1,630,357
Donations/Interest	\$993,541
	\$2,982,059



Salaries And Benefits	\$1,016,296
Occupancy Costs	\$307,660
Children And Family Support	\$407,407
Fundraising	\$132,365
Office and IT Support	\$256,692
Professional Development	\$50,949
Advertising And Communication	\$50,034
Very Important Paws (VIP) Program	\$6,299
Volunteer Management	\$32,952
	\$2,260,654

The January 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2019 Audited Financials represents a transition 15 month period due to a fiscal year end date change.

“Considering the circumstances why we were there, it was very comfortable and pleasant in this awful situation. The staff were amazing with my son, he got to see the dog, got to pick out a gift for himself and his sister. He was so nervous at first, but the staff eased his fears very quickly for him.”

Zebra Centre Caregiver



Zebra Child Protection Centre

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zebracentre.ca

#kidscantell



@ZebraCentre

To Report Abuse

Edmonton Police Service

780-423-4567

Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-387-5437

