

Date: July 12th, 2005

Location: Red Deer, Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

NEED FOR SHELTER CONTINUES TO GROW

In June 96 women and children accessed shelter, which meant the shelter was operating at 94% occupancy of its 30 funded beds and 74% occupancy of its 36-bed capacity. An additional 35 women and children were turned away as occupancy reached 100% during part of the month.

In 2001, the Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter underwent an expansion to increase its capacity from 24 beds to 36 beds. It was seen as a necessary step to meet the needs of women and children and to reduce the numbers being turned away. The additional beds have certainly proved to be essential as the number of women and children accessing shelter continues to grow. During the first six months of 2004, the number of bed nights for the shelter was 2783. For the corresponding six months of 2005 that number rose to 4370 with no signs of slowing down.

Contact Pat Hagemann at 346-5643 if you have any further questions.