



Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary 2015 Annual Report

50th Anniversary Edition

About the Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary

Celebrating 50 Years of Healing, Hope and New Beginnings

Since 1965, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary (EFry) has offered healing, hope and the programs women and youth impacted by poverty, legal and justice issues need to start again. We meet people where they are at within the justice system, whether this is through the courts, in prison or in our community.

Our help comes in many forms. It may be providing basic necessities to a woman who has just left prison and is trying to find housing and employment or needs intensified support to address her core issues. It may be teaching life skills through our U.N.L.O.C.K. program to women who are incarcerated. It can be found in a seminar teaching new citizens about their basic rights and responsibilities in Canada or in the courthouse as a youth or adult struggles to understand the justice process and proceedings.

We proudly carry on the vision of Elizabeth Fry, a passionate advocate for those without a voice and a champion of prison reform for women. We are honoured to celebrate 50 years of serving vulnerable women and youth in the Calgary community. Thank you for being part of our story and for caring about our work.

“It is an honor to appear on the side of the afflicted.”

– Elizabeth Fry

Our Mission

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary offers pathways to healing, through supports and advocacy, for women who are affected by systemic social issues which contribute to their criminalization.

Why a Butterfly?

Butterflies represent new beginnings. As a symbol of transformation, the butterfly theme found throughout this report is a reminder and tribute to the lives transformed through our work over the past 50 years. We honor the women who are brave, strong and resilient, and who follow their dreams of creating a new beginning for themselves and their families.



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NAHEED K. NENSHI

2016



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR NENSHI

On behalf of the citizens of Calgary and my City Council colleagues, I am pleased to bring greetings to those of you reading the Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary's 2015 Annual Report.

This year, the society is celebrating a milestone — 50 years of supporting vulnerable women and youth in our community. Since 1965, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary has helped thousands of women make a better life and, as a result, a better community. We are best when we work together and when each of us has the opportunity to live a great life.

In 2015, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary continued to offer important programs and resources to assist those women and youth impacted by poverty, legal and justice issues. I would like to commend the organization for their achievements over the past year, and throughout the past 50 years.

I wish the Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary many more years of continued success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nenshi". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "N" and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Naheed K. Nenshi
MAYOR

Message from our Board President

Working Together to Change Lives

2015 was busy and exciting year for the Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary as we prepared to kick off the celebration of our 50th year milestone. The commencement of our anniversary offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the agency's history and the cumulative impact of our work. It also got me thinking about Elizabeth Fry's words rewritten here in modern phrasing:

"If you are going to build a prison then you should build it with the thought that your children may occupy the cells."

"Punishment is not for revenge, but to lessen crime and reform the criminal".

Both quotes are reminders of why we are dedicated to helping women affected by systemic social issues in a way that is safe, supportive and non-judgmental. EFry programs help individuals transition from prison to the community, providing the resources and supports to begin again.

While 2015 was a time of reflection, it was also a time to look to the future. The Board's activities commencing our 50th year focused on governance, strategy and ways to diversify funding in challenging economic times for Alberta. Our priorities were to help the organization move forward, anticipate risks, suggest controls, look for

funding opportunities and support the long-term strategy of the agency. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with a talented group of individuals on the EFry Board and always appreciate the time and skills they give to the agency.

I have significant admiration and appreciation for Katelyn Lucas, our Executive Director, and the EFry staff who continue to do great work that can take an emotional toll. Their dedication to our clients is the reason so many women find healing, hope and new beginnings for their lives. We are also fortunate to work with generous funding and grant partners, and talented volunteers.

Finally, I must thank Calgarians who are willing to give EFry clients another chance through the provision of jobs, housing or simply by welcoming them into our collective community. In doing so, you send a powerful message of hope and acceptance.

Since 1965, we've changed thousands of lives together. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the next 50 years.



Virginia Ashley
Board President

2015-2016 Board of Directors

Virginia Ashley - Board President
Brett Pearce - Vice President
Carlos Garcia - Treasurer
Jessica Karpat - Secretary

Lisa Rothwell - Director
Supreet Sidhu - Director
Charles Newton Price - Director
Vidya Venkatraman - Director



Message from our Executive Director

Our History Shapes Our Future

On December 13, 1965, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary opened its doors with the goal of serving women in prison. During this time, a group of Calgary women, led by Vendla Amy, passionately advocated on behalf of women in conflict with the law. EFry has evolved from a volunteer-driven agency to a strong non-profit organization with a qualified, experienced staff. The compassion and desire to make a difference remains part of our legacy in Calgary as we continue to replicate the work of Elizabeth Fry, who was a prison reform advocate in the early 1800's.

As the current Executive Director, I am privileged to highlight our work in the community and represent Elizabeth Fry to many different audiences, including politicians, partners, funders, the media, corporations and the general public. As our milestone anniversary approached throughout 2015, I was often reminded of the dedication and leadership of previous Executive Directors, staff and Board members who worked tirelessly on behalf of our clients and organization. It is because of their efforts that we are well-positioned as a leader in women's justice issues today.

Within this annual report, we've included highlights from our 50-year history. It is fascinating to reflect on what has changed and what has stayed the same. EFry has remained consistent with our focus on supporting women involved in the justice system. What this support looks like has definitely changed! In the early years, our focus was on providing companionship and serving tea to clients. Today we offer intensified case management, release planning, and empower women to overcome the challenges that led them to their incarceration. We provide services to address the underlying issues of

justice involvement, particularly as shifts to the justice system have impacted the growth of female incarceration, especially for indigenous women.

In recognition of the number of indigenous women we serve, we have expanded our focus on cultural competency and indigenous service delivery. We provide access to ceremonies, elder support and cultural programming, as well as Blackfoot language classes. All of these programs are imperative factors in increasing cultural identity and awareness. In particular, language enhances the positive reconnection to culture for women who have been disenfranchised due to residential schools, the 60's scoop or the foster care system.

Without a doubt, the agency's work is the result of the commitment, dedication and passion of the EFry staff who tirelessly support the mission and vision of the organization, as well as our dedicated – and growing – group of volunteers. Additionally, our collective work with community partners is essential to improving the lives of the women we serve. Finally, I must thank all our funders, donors and individuals who invest in Elizabeth Fry through their donations of time, financial support and necessary basic needs items.

Thank you,



Katelyn Lucas
Executive Director



Program Highlights

Our programs are the gateway to a new beginning for our clients. From the focus on assisting women to use their time constructively while they are incarcerated, to offering practical supports and basic needs when released, we provide practical tools and supports that will foster confidence and encourage healthier choices. From facilitating workshops to for new Canadians, to incorporating cultural programs that promote healing for indigenous women, we assist women with cultural competence.

Here are some of our 2015 program highlights:

We facilitated the SAGE Employment Readiness Program for vulnerable women experiencing barriers to employment with consistent programming supports to assist them on their journey to personal success.

We began developing our Youth Mentorship and Legal Information program to provide individualized support to youth who fall between the gaps of services and paid supports.

There was continued growth in our immigrant programs as we implemented a larger number of workshops and clinics to assist newcomers with opportunities to learn about their rights and responsibilities under Canadian law. The constantly changing immigration system continues to guide our work to assist women and their families with immigration needs.

Our indigenous programming was expanded to include Blackfoot Literacy and Language classes, and monthly talking circles. An Aboriginal Program Support Worker was hired to coordinate and enhance our indigenous supports.

The Prison Community Outreach Program implemented case management best practices to support intensified case work.

We evaluated our court program structures for further adaptations in 2016. Since our court programs began in 1975 (adult court) and 1990 (youth court) these programs have evolved to include newer court programs including: 2012 (Family Justice Services), 2013 (Regional Court – South) and 2014 (Regional Court – North). These programs have also contributed to the growth of our legal information programs that have supported women and their families who fall between the liminal gaps of unpaid and paid legal services.

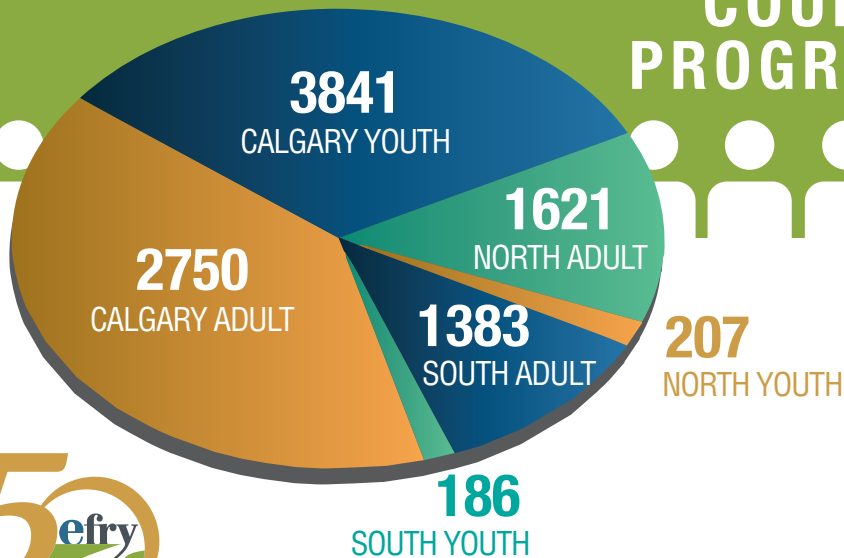


U.N.L.O.C.K. 355 participants

Prison to Community OUTREACH PROGRAM

748

COURT PROGRAMS



Legal Information Court Programs

209

CAPI

63 workshops

1768

participants

Immigrant Legal
Information Program

129 participants

63 VOLUNTEERS

ABORIGINAL
PROGRAMMING

199

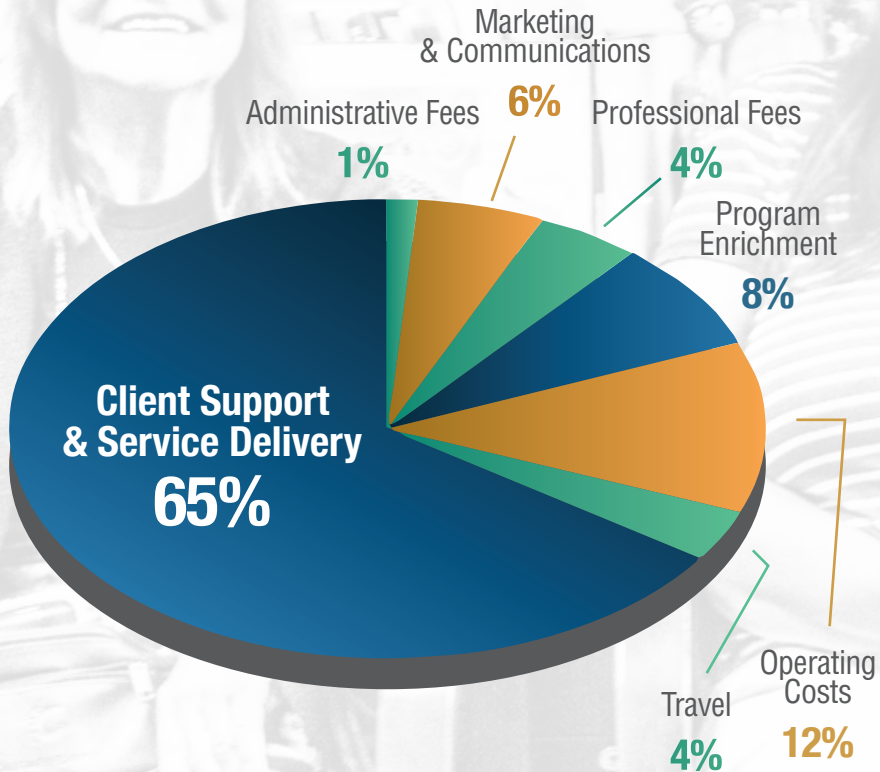
PARTICIPANTS

SAGE

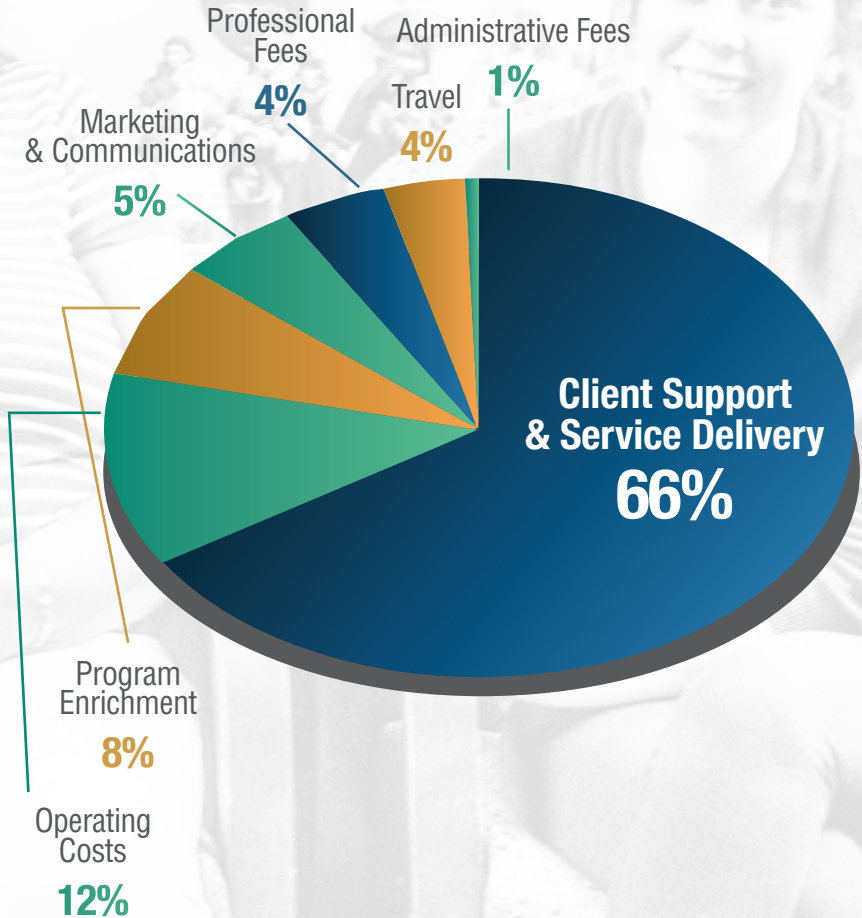
27

PARTICIPANTS

2015 Elizabeth Fry Budget Breakdown



2014 Elizabeth Fry Budget Breakdown



The Cycle of Poverty

The women we serve all have unique stories to share, but poverty is the primary reason they engage in criminal activity. The cycle needs to be addressed and broken. Working together, we can create solutions to help women make positive life changes.



The Women We Serve

Our clients are somebody's mother, sister, daughter or friend. They have faces, names and stories that matter. Since 1965, we have helped tens of thousands of women begin again. Their resilient spirits and brave hearts are encouragement to us all.

**“We shouldn’t be judged by our worst day but by our best day...
and the best things we’re capable of.”**

– Piper Kerman, best-selling author of
“Orange is the New Black – My Year in a Women’s Prison”.



Brave strong courageous **resilient**
resourceful experienced survivors
intergenerational trauma abuses
impoverished **misunderstood** oppressed

Honouring 50 Years in Calgary



50
efry
Years of Healing

The 60's

Post Second World War, local Calgary women began to address the needs of female offenders, with the support of the John Howard Society.

1965 – A group of women, led by Vendla Amy, established a community-based group to provide services to women in conflict with the law and formed the Elizabeth Fry Society of Alberta.

For the next 10 years, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Alberta had a very close relationship with the John Howard Society, sharing office space and funding.

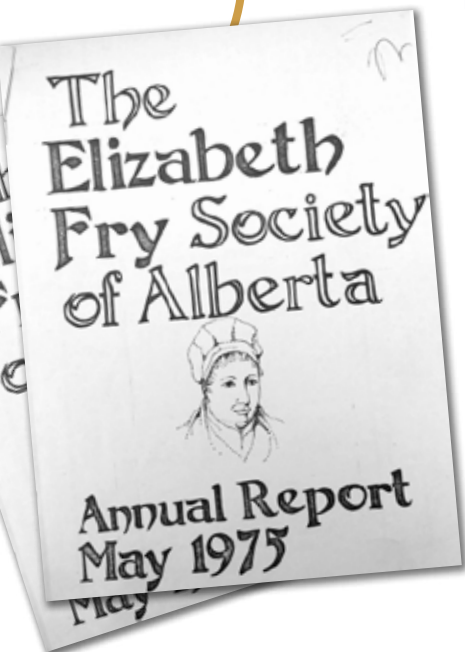
The 70's

1975 – The Adult Court Program is started.
Volunteers traveled to Banff and High River to support regional courts.

1977 – The Elizabeth Fry Societies of Alberta joined the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, reaffirming Calgary's advocacy role on issues of national importance.

1979 – The Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton was formed with support from Calgary in 1978 and the Elizabeth Fry Society of Alberta changed its name to the Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary (EFry). Programs offered focused on counseling and prison visitation.

Throughout the 1970's, volunteers traveled throughout the province, visiting incarcerated women in various institutions.



The 80's

1981 – EFry moved into its own building.

1983 – The Social Action Committee is created by EFRY to raise its advocacy profile.

1984 – The Shoplifting Intervention Program pilot is launched and is made into an ongoing program in 1987.

1987 – The publication “Staying Alive in the Legal Jungle” is released by EFry.



The 90's

1990 – The Youth Court Program was formed in Calgary. Over 13,000 youth and their families benefit from the program in its first year.

1991 – EFry Calgary celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

Prison workers have weekly phone calls and annual visits with Alberta women incarcerated in the Prison for Women in Kingston, Ont.



The 2000's

2001 – Berkana House was launched with the Calgary John Howard Society as a residence to support federally sentenced women on day parole and on conditional sentences.

2006 – The Community Awareness Program for Immigrants (CAPI) was piloted and has since become one of EFry's most preventative programming supports for immigrants in the city.

2012 – Family Justice Services Program established.
U.N.L.O.C.K Program launched in Calgary Remand.
EFry office moves to 1731 – 10 Ave SW.

2013 – Regional Court Programs established in Airdrie and Okotoks.
U.N.L.O.C.K. implemented in the Calgary Attendance Centre.

2014 – Regional Court Programs established in Canmore, Cochrane and Didsbury.

2014 – The SAGE program commenced providing culturally relevant support to women with barriers to employment.

2015 – Youth Legal Information and Mentorship Program established.
EFry introduces its 50th Anniversary logo.
Blackfoot Literacy and Language Program is launched.



Giving of Time and Talents



Our volunteers and staff help us to stretch our resources and extend our impact on the women and youth we serve. Thank you to all of our volunteers who contribute in so many different ways!

2015 Volunteers

Diana Adu-Gyimah
Reneae Aitchison
Simon Akumchi
Leanne Alfaro
Karen Aninakwa
Yelda Anwari
Tara Astorga
Sylvia Awad
Deborah Awojuola
Vahideh Azar
Jaime Ballesteros Lara
Kristina Baykusheva
Loveneet Brar
Charlene Brusa
Melissa Chow
Alex Court

Emily Couto
Chelsea Daku
Alisha Dhanjal
Preet Dhillon
Harjot Dhillon
Vasil Dimitrov
Ivana Dokic
Serena Eshaghurshan
Solenia Fox
Jennifer George
Raveena Gill
Mary Ann Go
Nadine Goldade
Maria Habib
Anmol Hehar
Kendra Heinz

Amy Hiebert
Shalu Hirji
Mayer Javed
Lela Jiang
Gina Joves
Kismet Kaur
Priyanka Kumar
Dawn Langille
Jenlen Leonard
Jessie Lisk
Elizabeth MacDougall
Shiela Marasigan
Genevieve McLean
Ashlee Morris
Fay Munro
Agnes Nestor

Sara Orban
Karen Ranni
Eman Saj
Miranda Sharpe
Rabia Shuaib
Christie Simmons
Souad Talbi
Nicole Tremere
Laura Triana
Catrina Webster
Shan Ye
Qimat Zafar
Jeanine Zahara
Stanislava Zgurova
Vanessa Zuchetto

2015 Staff

Katelyn Lucas | Executive Director
Ronda Dalshaug | Program Manager
Erin Ramsperger | Evaluation Specialist
Cherri Low Horn | PCOP Caseworker
Ethel Stonechild | PCOP Caseworker
Kate Joseph | PCOP Caseworker
Barbara Smith | Aboriginal Program Resource
Jessica Ulloa Quiroz | SAGE Coordinator
Jovita Dias | Immigrant Legal Education Specialist

Nicolle Hans | Immigrant Legal Information Specialist
Ghada Alatrash | Volunteer Coordinator
Leanne Alfaro | Court Volunteer Coordinator
Bernice Olivares | Regional Court Liaison
Bukky Allen | Regional Court Liaison & Legal Information Specialist
Yohanka Gonzalez-McPhie | Legal Information Specialist
Valerie Cassley | Youth Court Liaison

The Power of Teamwork

Everyone benefits when organizations work together, sharing expertise to better serve vulnerable individuals. We value our collaborative relationships and the opportunity to contribute to various committees.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Alberta Health Services Addiction Services
Bow Valley College
Calgary Alpha House Society
Calgary Attendance Centre
Calgary Immigrant Education Society
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association
Calgary John Howard Society
Calgary Public Library
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies
Centre for Newcomers
Chinook Learning Services
Immigrant Services Calgary
Mustard Seed – Affordable Housing
Welcome Centre for New Immigrants
Women's Centre of Calgary

Committee Work

Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Calgary Case Management Group
Calgary Poverty Reduction Initiative – Justice
Calgary Recovery Services Task Force
Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative – Justice Domain/
Housing Domain
Coordinated Access and Assessment High Acuity and
Mid Acuity Placement Committees
Real Me Youth Program – Centre for Newcomers/
Calgary Police Service/University of Calgary

Funders

Alberta Ministry of Indigenous Relations
Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission
Alberta Justice and Solicitor General
Alberta Law Foundation
Calgary Foundation
Calgary Learns
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies
Rotary Club of Calgary
United Way of Calgary and Area
Corporate sponsors, individual donors, and bequests

Looking Ahead to 2016

Our focus in 2016 is to continue to build awareness about EFry, our programs and the positive impact we are having on the lives of women, youth and their families.

As the Calgary community becomes more educated about the issues contributing to incarceration and how they can help, we can work together to create solutions that break the cycle of poverty.

In celebration of our 50th Anniversary, Piper Kerman, bestselling author of “Orange is the New Black – My Year in a Women’s Prison” visited in April 2016 for a special fundraising event in Calgary. Having Piper’s powerful voice speak on issues relating to women in prison, as well as the challenges they face when released, has dramatically increased awareness and understanding within the Calgary community.

In the months ahead, we will continue to build on this success, sharing client stories and our work through media, social media and at events throughout Southern Alberta.

Our other primary focus will be to continue to develop our programs to best meet client needs, and to expand our cultural programs. We are earning a positive reputation for our expertise and competency in working with Indigenous women and their families, and will continue to enhance this focus.







For more information or to help the women
and youth we serve, connect with us at:

Main office:

1731 – 10 Avenue SW

Calgary, Alberta T3C 0K1

(across the street from the Sunalta LRT station)

Email: reception@elizabethfrycalgary.ca

Telephone: (403) 294-0737

Toll Free: 1 (877) 398-3656

Fax: (403) 262-0285

www.elizabethfrycalgary.ca

Connect with us:

 EFryCalgary

 @EFryYYC

 Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary