

Battlefords INTERVAL HOUSE

Hope. Healing. New Beginnings.

2025–2026



ANNUAL REPORT

Land Acknowledgement

Battlefords Interval House acknowledges that we operate on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to First Nations and Métis ancestors, and to all Indigenous people who continue to live, work, and raise families in this community.

We recognize the ongoing impacts of colonization, including the disproportionate experiences of violence faced by Indigenous women and children. We are committed to providing services that are respectful, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of Indigenous clients.

Through our work, we share the goal of building safer communities free from violence and abuse for all.

About Battlefords Interval House

Battlefords Interval House Society Inc. is a community-based non-profit, registered charity providing 24-hour emergency safe shelter and comprehensive support services for women and their children leaving violence and abuse. The shelter has 15 beds across 6 rooms and has served the community since 1980.

Who We Are

Battlefords Interval House provides safe shelter and support to women and children leaving violence, guided by the following mission, values, and goals.

Our Mission				
To work towards safety, support, and healing by providing services to women and their children in our community as they leave circumstances of violence and abuse.				
Our Values				
Safety & Dignity Safe, respectful spaces where women and children are protected and valued.	Empowerment Supporting women and children to build strength, confidence, and independence.	Advocacy Working toward justice and systemic change to address violence and abuse.	Inclusion Providing accessible, compassionate, and non-judgmental services.	Accountability Acting with honesty, reflection, and responsibility to those we serve.
Our Goals				
❖ Provide safe, temporary shelter for women and their children ❖ Offer guidance, resources, and advocacy to support healing and independence ❖ Create opportunities for long-term stability and personal growth ❖ Increase awareness and education to help prevent violence and abuse				

2025–2026 AT A GLANCE

- ❖ Shelter operated at or near full capacity for most of the year
- ❖ Service demand continued to increase, with over 5,000 calls for service
- ❖ 481 individuals were turned away due to limited space
- ❖ 87 women and children were admitted to shelter
- ❖ Average length of stay was approximately 24 days
- ❖ Demand continues to exceed available capacity, limiting the number of clients who can be admitted

Message from the Board Chair

The 2025–2026 year brought increased demand for services and a significant period of leadership transition. For part of the year, we operated without an Executive Director while continuing to provide full services, which required both the Board and staff to step in and support day-to-day operations. The shelter was often at or near full capacity, reflecting a growing gap between community need and available resources, and creating ongoing pressure on staff and service delivery throughout the year.

What stands out most to me is the strength of our team. Staff continued to show up every day, supporting women and children with care, consistency, and professionalism, even when the work was demanding.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Dannette Quinn for stepping into the role of Acting Executive Director, along with the entire staff team for their hard work and commitment. Their efforts made it possible to keep the shelter operating safely and reliably during a challenging time, and even under pressure, the focus never shifted. Staff and Board members remained committed to providing safe, trauma-informed support to women and children as they worked toward safety and stability.

I am pleased to share that Ashley Fleming joined Battlefords Interval House as Executive Director in June 2026. On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Ashley and thank her for choosing to join our organization. As we move forward, the Board remains focused on supporting Ashley in her new role and strengthening the organization's ability to respond to increasing demand. We look forward to working with her as we continue to strengthen services and respond to the growing needs of women and children in our community.

We are grateful to our staff, partners, and community for their continued support. This work is not done alone, and that support continues to make a real difference for the women and children we serve.

Elaine Blais, Board Chair

Operational Update

When I think about this year, I think about how the team just kept things going. For part of the year, we were without an Executive Director, but the work did not stop. Staff showed up, did their jobs, and made sure the shelter stayed open and running. Clients were still supported, and day-to-day operations carried on.

It was a busy year. Calls were steady, and staff were helping women and children every day, whether that was answering the phone, doing safety plans, or just being there when someone needed support. The team stayed focused and kept things moving.

What made the biggest difference was how staff worked together. People covered shifts when needed, checked in with each other, and made sure things were handled. There was a strong sense that everyone was in it together, and that carried us through the year.

We also had some big changes with the new intake process and Justice tracking forms. It was a lot to learn, and staff adjusted to how they were doing things day to day. Staff worked through the changes together and built them into their daily work. These changes made a clear difference in how we manage screening and client flow through the shelter. Earlier in the year, we were not always filling available rooms based on how the protocols were applied. With these changes in place, we are now more consistently filling the house and using our space more effectively to support clients.

Along with that, staff kept building on trauma informed ways of working. This has changed how staff approach their work with clients and supported more consistent, responsive care throughout a client's stay.

Having reliable staff available to cover shifts also made a difference. Consistent staffing supported day-to-day operations and helped ensure clients received steady, ongoing support.

Looking back, I am really proud of the team. They showed up, supported each other, and made sure clients were cared for.

Dannette Quinn, Acting Executive Director

Leadership and Oversight

Board of Directors

Elaine Blais, Chair

Dr. Stacie Churchill, Secretary

Sandra Favel Rewerts, Director

Nicole Combres, Director

Staff Team (2025-2026)

Battlefords Interval House (BIH) is supported by a dedicated team of staff who provide 24-hour services to women and children in our community.

Position	Name(s)
Acting Executive Director	Dannette Quinn
Full-Time Crisis Workers (Rotational)	Sheri Bear Lori Barber Maida Balugo Salvacion Dela Torre
Casual / Relief Crisis Workers	Kelly Watt Kristin Zoller Delia Duquette Koraley Anderson Adele Sperle Darcy Funkner
Support Worker	Nevenka Vas

Our Impact at a Glance

Service Indicators	2025-2026
 Total Calls	5,040
 Crisis Calls	1,142 (23%)
 Support Calls	3,898 (77%)
 Women Admitted	43
 Children Admitted	44
 External Referrals Made	972
 Case Plans Developed	425
 Safety Plans Completed	1,026
 Education Sessions Delivered	248

Trends Over the Last 3 Years

1. Service Volume: Total vs. Crisis Calls

Fiscal Year	Crisis Calls	Support Calls	Total Calls
2024–2025	1,136	2,824	3,960
2025–2026	1,142	3,898	5,040

Trend: Total calls increased significantly

Why it matters: More clients require ongoing support, not just crisis response

2. Shelter Admissions: Women vs. Children

Fiscal Year	Women Admitted	Children Admitted
2023–2024	47	62
2024–2025	45	51
2025–2026	43	44

Trend: Admissions remained stable

Why it matters: Capacity limits, not demand are affecting admissions

3. Turn-Aways and Unmet Demand (Trend)

Fiscal Year	Turn-Aways
2024–2025	211*
2025–2026	481

*2024–2025 reflects new women declined only; 2025–2026 reflects total turn-aways.

Trend: Turn-aways increased significantly

Why it matters: More individuals are unable to access shelter due to limited space

 **Note:** Year-over-year comparisons should be interpreted with caution due to updated tracking methods in 2025–2026.

Understanding Service Pressures

High Demand and Capacity

Service demand continued to exceed available shelter capacity, with the shelter frequently operating at or near full capacity. Capacity is based on safe room placement, not just bed count, which means the shelter may be considered full even when beds appear available.

Length of stay also impacts capacity. Internal review shows an average stay of approximately 24 days. While many clients stayed for shorter periods, a smaller number of longer stays reduced turnover and limited available space. Limited access to second stage and transitional housing also contributed to longer stays, which further reduced the number of new clients who could be admitted.

Turn-Aways and Unmet Demand

What demand looked like in 2025–2026:

- ❖ 481 total turn-aways
- ❖ 30–60+ turn-aways per month
- ❖ 300+ new clients unable to access shelter
- ❖ Approximately 1 admission for every 5 individuals turned away

This highlights a significant gap between community need and available shelter space.

How We Support Clients

BIH provides a range of supports to women and children during their stay. Core services include emergency shelter (24/7), crisis response and safety planning, case planning and referrals, advocacy and transportation support, and prevention and education.

Children are also supported through day-to-day activities, routines, and safe spaces. Staff work to create a calm and supportive environment where children can feel safe, stay engaged, and have a sense of normalcy during a difficult time.

During the 2025–2026 fiscal year, BIH supported clients in achieving key steps toward stability:

-  Clients discharged with identification: 57
-  Clients discharged with income secured: 34
-  Clients securing stable housing: 13

These outcomes reflect meaningful progress toward safety and independence, despite capacity limitations.

Client Voices

“Friendly like family.”

“It’s a positive environment.”

“They helped me get back on the right path.”

Community Partnerships

BIH works closely with community partners to support women and children in accessing services and building stability.

In 2025–2026, staff made over 970 external referrals, connecting clients to supports based on their needs. These included housing, income supports, counselling, mental health and addictions services, health care, legal supports, and basic needs such as food and clothing.

Several partnerships had a direct impact on client outcomes. The Battlefords Housing Authority (BHA) has been increasingly proactive in working with clients, supporting access to housing and contributing to more effective discharge planning.

Staff connected with the Community Living Family Respite Program to better understand available supports for families with children who have developmental or learning needs. This program offers respite and funding supports that may benefit some families accessing shelter services.

The Battleford's Indian Metis Friendship Centre has been an important resource for clients. In some cases, they have supported clients in securing private housing, particularly when clients are waiting for BHA placement or are not eligible due to arrears. This has helped expand housing options and improve outcomes for clients facing additional barriers.

Clients were connected to a range of counselling and mental health supports in the community, including Anchor & Thread, Battle River Treaty 6 Health Centre (BRT6), Catholic Family Services, Battlefords Mental Health & Addictions Services (SHA), and other community-based counselling services, depending on client needs and availability.

These partnerships support client safety, stability, and access to services beyond their time at the shelter.

Public Awareness and Advocacy

Battlefords Interval House continues to raise awareness of interpersonal violence and available supports.

Key activities included:

- Participation in the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- Media interviews with CBC and CTV Saskatoon as part of the Toys for Tickets campaign
- Community education and outreach events

These efforts help ensure individuals know where to seek help and support broader community awareness.



Supporters

Battlefords Interval House is funded by the Government of Saskatchewan through the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, Community Safety and Well-Being. This funding makes it possible for BIH to provide 24-hour emergency shelter and essential support services to women and their children in our community.



In addition to government funding, BIH is supported by individuals, businesses, organizations, and community partners. These contributions play an important role in helping us respond to the needs of clients and maintain a safe and welcoming environment.

Support received throughout the year included monetary donations to support core services, as well as in-kind contributions such as clothing, household items, and other essentials. Ongoing community involvement and partnerships also strengthened our ability to support clients during and after their stay.





We sincerely thank everyone who contributed this year. Your support helps us keep our doors open and ensures women and children have a safe place to go when they need it most. These contributions directly support the safety, stability, and well-being of those accessing our services.

Celebrating Our Work

The 2025–2026 year was one of resilience and continued impact.

This year, we:

- ❖ Maintained 24-hour shelter operations during a leadership transition
- ❖ Responded to over 5,000 calls for service
- ❖ Supported clients in achieving key steps toward independence
- ❖ Strengthened community partnerships and referral pathways
- ❖ Improved data tracking to better reflect service demand
- ❖ Documented significant unmet need, including over 480 turn-aways

These accomplishments reflect the dedication of staff and the resilience of the women and children we serve.

Looking Ahead

As BIH moves into the next year, the organization will continue to respond to increasing demand while strengthening service delivery.

Key priorities include:

- Supporting leadership transition and organizational stability under the direction of the new Executive Director
- Strengthening referral coordination
- Improving data systems
- Supporting staff capacity
- Monitoring demand and capacity trends

BIH remains committed to ensuring women and children have access to safe and responsive services when they need them most.