



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Women In Need Society (WINS) Provides Update On Fundraising Achievements**

*\$335,000 raised and new partnerships are forged as WINS navigates a challenging economic climate*

CALGARY – May 29, 2018 – WINS is pleased to announce they will be re-opening their Bridgeland and Temple Family Resource Centres and re-instating more than half of their community services as of June 5, 2018.

In late March of this year, WINS came forward with a plea to the community to help raise \$500,000 to help re-open their Family Resource Centres, which had been temporarily closed. The need for funds stemmed from a simultaneous decrease in donor contributions, a decrease in overall donations and an increase in Resource Centre service requests.

Since the campaign started, WINS has raised more than \$335,000 of their \$500,000 goal, thanks to the generosity of Calgarians and community organizations, as well as support from the Government of Alberta and the Ministry of Community and Social Services, who provided a grant of \$250,000.

“Supporting women in need and their families is a high priority. WINS is so thankful for the generous funding that will allow us to continue providing services and supports to ensure women get the resources, knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve self-sufficiency.” says Karen Ramchuk, Executive Director of WINS.

“All Albertans deserve to have access to resources they need to live with dignity,” says the Honourable Irfan Sabir, Minister of Community and Social Services. “Providing this funding to WINS means more Calgarians will have access to the resources and services they need to ensure their families are supported as they begin to rebuild. Our government is glad to join with the numerous Calgarians and organizations who have pledged their support to WINS.”

Many businesses, groups and individual Calgarians made incredible efforts to help ensure WINS would have a bright future. Inter Pipeline Ltd provided an additional investment to revitalize WINS’ aging fleet of trucks, and a number of organizations have supported WINS through their own special event fundraising and donation drives.

“We would like to recognize the incredible efforts Calgarians have made to help keep WINS top of mind,” says Karen Ramchuk, Executive Director of WINS. “We know that every dollar and donation counts, so we are humbled and deeply appreciative of the outpouring of encouragement and support.”

Throughout the fundraising period, WINS also found opportunities for innovation, in terms of how community programs can be delivered in Calgary’s not-for-profit sector. WINS has entered into a partnership with The Mustard Seed to pool resources and provide more frontline services to those in need. Together, the two organizations will be launching a new model for its Family Resource Centres that can serve as an example of inter-agency cooperation moving forward.

“Our fundraising challenges provided us the opportunity to take a fresh look at how we operate our services and partner with other organizations,” says Ramchuk. “By working with the Mustard Seed, we will be able to share resources and establish best practices for other social change groups to collaborate and architect innovative solutions.”

Continues Ramchuk, “We couldn’t have come this far without Calgary’s incredible spirit and generosity and the support of Calgary Housing Company and the United Way of Calgary. We are looking forward to re-establishing our resource centres in a new way, focusing on partnerships and collaboration as we navigate the current economic climate.”

Calgarians are encouraged to continue to “Shop for a Cause” at WINS’ five family thrift stores and to donate their gently-used clothing, furniture and household items on an ongoing basis.

Media are invited on Friday, June 1 between 10 a.m. and noon to the Bridgeland Family Resource Centre (736 McDougall Court NE) or between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Temple Family Resource Centre (16 Templemont Lane NE) for interview opportunities.

For more information, please visit [www.womeninneed.net](http://www.womeninneed.net).

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### **About Women In Need Society**

Women In Need Society (WINS) is a Calgary-based charity helping women in need and their families. Operating four Family Resource Centres, a Free Goods Referral Program, Employment Program, Recycling Program and the WINS Thrift Stores social enterprise, WINS provides women with the resources, knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve self-sufficiency. For more information please visit [www.womeninneed.net](http://www.womeninneed.net).

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