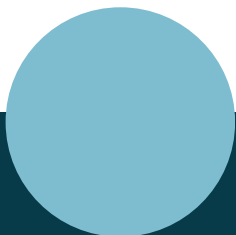


turning  
point



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

# THE HEART OF OUR WORK

## **OUR MISSION:**

Turning Point Society is a non-profit agency building individual and community capacity, using evidence-informed practices.

## **OUR VISION:**

We want to participate in a world where there's respect and dignity for all, in a safe and healthy community.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on 2023-2024, I am incredibly proud of what Turning Point has achieved during this milestone year, celebrating 35 years of service to our community.

## RETURNED TO OUR ROOTS

We facilitated a smooth transition of our Overdose Prevention Services to AHS, marking an opportunity to return to our roots as a community response to the HIV/AIDS crisis. This transition has allowed us to re-strengthen our focus on improving access to essential STBBI, pregnancy, and recovery-focused care for vulnerable populations.

## EXPANDING OUR REACH

To meet growing demand, we expanded our drop-in office, opened a secondary office for outreach and community education, and began renovations to enhance the safety and appearance of our building. Our STBBI Testing and Treatment services continued to grow, with a focus on addressing the syphilis outbreak throughout Central Alberta.

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

This year, we also deepened our community connections, ensuring our programs were accessible and responsive to those we serve. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, the collaboration of our partners, and the support of our funders. As we look ahead, we remain committed to breaking down barriers, building bridges, and fostering hope for all. Thank you for being on this journey with us.

Kindly,



Reed Charbonneau  
Executive Director  
Turning Point Society



# IN MOURNING



This year we welcomed a permanent fixture to our office - our new tree of mourning. Each heart represents someone the community has lost to an accidental opioid poisoning



Unfortunately, bad weather interrupted our annual International Overdose Awareness Day event and instead of hosting at Rotary Park, we served hot food to folks in our office



On the winter solstice, we held a Memorial Fire at the Grandfather Stones to honour and remember those we have lost

# PROGRAM IMPACTS

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## PROGRAM IMPACT

# HEALTH PROMOTION

Turning Point Society started 35 years ago as a grassroots response to Central Alberta's AIDS crisis. The Health Promotion program is one of our longest standing initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of people facing vulnerabilities.

With the aim to mitigate adverse health outcomes, our Health Promotion program is an effort to lower the barriers to health care access. Through this program, individuals are able to access navigation support for hepatitis and HIV treatment and appointment accompaniment, so they are supported every step of the way.



163

INDIVIDUALS REFERRED  
TO RECOVERY SERVICES

64

STBBI EDUCATION  
SESSIONS HELD

9

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH  
HEPATITIS C TREATMENT  
NAVIGATION AND  
SUPPORT

106,727

CONDOMS  
DISTRIBUTED IN  
CENTRAL  
ALBERTA

80%

OF WOMEN WHO  
ACCESSED  
SERVICES  
REPORTED SEX  
WORK  
INVOLVEMENT





## PROGRAM IMPACT

# STOP SYPHILIS PROJECT

Our focus has evolved to meet the needs of our community. We launched our Stop Syphilis Project in November of 2023 to address the ever growing syphilis rates in Alberta.

With the goal to increase the number of folks being tested and treated for syphilis, our dedicated nurses provide low-barrier in-house testing, along with travel to rural communities with high need. There, our team collaborates with a particular community to deliver testing in culturally appropriate and impactful ways.

In order to meet the needs of our most vulnerable, our team has consulted with a 'peer advisory group' to create educational material that is more relevant to the folks we serve.

11

HARD TO REACH CLIENTS  
TREATED

14

EDUCATION EVENTS IN 7  
COMMUNITIES

14.5

HOURS OF TESTING IN  
RURAL COMMUNITIES

128

TESTS  
DONE

11

COMMUNITY  
COLLABORATION  
PLANNING  
MEETINGS

# WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Women of child-bearing age who experience vulnerabilities, and any children born to them, are eligible to be supported by our Women's program. Understanding the complex needs of each individual is critical to providing adequate care, support, and resources, situating relationship building at the core of our Women's program.

Our team of outreach workers and a registered healthcare provider provide referral support, resources, and appointment accompaniment in a client-led approach. This program also has sex worker specific supports, such as a 'bad date book' intended to reduce sex workers risk of encountering violence while working.



1725

FACE TO FACE CONTACTS  
IN OFFICE

40%

OF WOMEN WHO  
ACCESSED PROGRAM  
WERE INDIGENOUS

62

WOMEN CONNECTED  
WITH RECOVERY CARE

93

NEW CLIENTS

83%

OF WOMEN WHO  
WANTED TO  
PARENT WERE  
PARENTING  
AFTER TWO  
MONTHS





## PROGRAM IMPACT

# OVERDOSE PREVENTION

In the Overdose Prevention program, a Registered Healthcare Provider and an Outreach Worker collaborate together to bring compassion-driven education and awareness about opioid poisonings to the Central Alberta region.

By providing information on current substance trends, opioid poisoning identification, prevention, and response, this program hopes to end opioid poisonings and related fatalities within Central Alberta.

**675**

**NALOXONE KITS  
DISTRIBUTED PER MONTH**

**1630**

**PEOPLE  
REACHED**

**63**

**PRESENTATIONS ACROSS  
14 COMMUNITIES**

**53**

**PEOPLE GIVEN  
WOUND CARE**

**112**

**PEOPLE CONNECTED  
WITH FURTHER  
HEALTHCARE**

## PROGRAM IMPACT

# RURAL OUTREACH

Through direct contact and connections via our established satellite sites, our Rural Outreach program and its Outreach Workers ensures support is more accessible for vulnerable folks outside of the cities.

Our satellite sites are voluntarily run, usually in existing social service agencies or pharmacies, where our Outreach Workers collaborate with satellite site staff to provide a point of connection and support in communities where extra care is needed.



**14**  
**SATELLITE SITES IN 12**  
**COMMUNITIES**

**166**  
**UNIQUE PEOPLE MET**  
**DIRECTLY WITH 829**  
**CONTACTS**

**118**  
**REFERRALS TO HEALTH**  
**AND RECOVERY-SPECIFIC**  
**CARE**

**1800**  
**CONTACTS VIA**  
**SATELLITE SITES**

**14**  
**PRESENTATIONS**  
**IN 11**  
**COMMUNITIES**  
**REACHING 386**  
**INDIVIDUALS**

# DAYTIME OUTREACH

Comprised of two Outreach Workers, our Daytime Outreach program meets folks where they are at in the community during regular office hours. Our team frequented 5 locations in the community where individuals often needed support, but would also ensure people in camps, city parks, and river valley areas were supported.

This program was integral to facilitating referrals and improving appointment follow-up with among vulnerable folks because of the programs capacity for relationship building.

Beyond client care, the Daytime Outreach team was responsible for maintaining various needle drop boxes, and would assist businesses and individuals in the downtown area with debris disposal when requested.

**1139**  
**UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS  
REACHED FOR OUTREACH**

**5728**  
**TOTAL CONTACTS**

**5**  
**COMMUNITY LOCATIONS  
REGULARLY REACHED  
FOR DAYTIME OUTREACH**

**781**  
**NALOXONE KITS  
DISTRIBUTED**

**15**  
**NEEDLE  
DEBRIS BOXES  
MAINTAINED  
IN THE  
COMMUNITY**

## PROGRAM IMPACT

# NIGHTREACH

Operating in teams of two, NightReach is a mobile outreach program that runs in the evenings 365 days a year. Their notable red backpacks carry harm reduction supplies, seasonal clothing, food, and first-aid materials.

NightReach assists street-involved folks with non-judgemental support, and provides referrals for food, housing, health care, recovery-oriented supports, employment services, and so much more.



**5577**  
**BASIC NEEDS SUPPORT**

**215**  
**CONNECTIONS TO OTHER  
HEALTH SERVICES**

**134**  
**CONNECTIONS TO  
RECOVERY-SPECIFIC CARE**

**1169**  
**UNIQUE  
INDIVIDUALS  
ENGAGED**

**17**  
**POISONING  
RESPONSES  
DURING  
OUTREACH**



# 35<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



IN MAY, WE CELEBRATED OUR 35TH ANNIVERSARY—A MILESTONE MARKING THREE AND A HALF DECADES OF PROVIDING ESSENTIAL, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TO VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES. WHAT BEGAN AS A GRASSROOTS RESPONSE TO THE AIDS CRISIS HAS SINCE EVOLVED INTO A DYNAMIC, MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM COMMITTED TO CLOSING GAPS IN HEALTHCARE EQUITY AND BEYOND.

# ALLIES IN COMMUNITY IMPACT

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Arun Mishra  
Bastiaan Vander Vliet & Wendy Klaasen  
Brett Parada  
Carol Verhoeven  
Colleen Cox  
Daniel & Selena Backman  
David Campbell  
Dolores Paquin  
Donald & Marlene Bennett  
Erin Whalen-Whelton  
Garrett Engert  
Jacqueline Chaisson  
James Mostoway  
Janet Cole  
Kim Surian  
Larry Pimm  
Lee-Anne Akister  
Linda Cassidy  
Lorraine Way  
Maggie Whalen-Whelton

Mary Jane Brown  
Michelle Parker  
Ricky Yeoman  
Robin Marchuk  
Serge Gingras  
Shawn Tse  
Teresa Neuman

## CORE FUNDERS

Alberta Health  
Alberta Health Services  
Central Alberta United Way  
Alberta Community Council on HIV  
City of Red Deer  
AGLC

## ORGANIZATIONAL DONORS

Care Gateway Medical  
Drumbeat Apparel  
IFR Workwear Inc.  
Southern Irrigation  
Your Story Fitness



We sincerely thank everyone—whether team member, collaborator, or financial supporter—for your investment in our efforts over the past year. Your commitment to caring for vulnerable populations is vital for the well-being of our entire community.





# THANK YOU



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Board of Directors for their unwavering support, guidance, and commitment. Their leadership and dedication play a crucial role in shaping our vision and driving our mission forward. Thank you for your invaluable contributions.



## STAFF

Turning Point Society is proud to have over 30 dedicated staff members who work tirelessly to ensure our programs remain accessible to at-risk community members throughout the year.



## COMMUNITY

We are grateful to collaborate with a diverse array of service providers, communities, businesses, and individuals whose ongoing support enhances our ability to reach target populations and build community capacity.



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