ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Wetaskiwin & Area Lodge Authority

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THE BETHANY GROUP

PREPARED BY THE BETHANY GROUP



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Wetaskiwin and Area Lodge Authority, I am pleased to share our Annual Report to the community. WALA is proud to provide residents safe and affordable supportive living in Wetaskiwin and Winfield.

Peace Hills Lodge and West Pine Lodge provide housing opportunities for one of the fastest growing segments of our population. Our lodge residents are provided with comfortable accommodations, meal service, laundry options, plus a host of additional services which contribute to an enjoyable standard and quality of life.

We are very proud to offer an affordable living option. With escalating costs in the areas of utilities and food; our rent and service packages remain very appealing to budget conscious seniors. The board supported additional funding through requisition in order to protect our residents from cost spikes and still offer quality services.

It is an honor to serve the communities of the City of Wetaskiwin, the County of Wetaskiwin and the Town of Millet to ensure area seniors have the opportunity to live in the communities that they have long called home. We hope this annual report reflects our commitment to a high-quality home environment for residents and prudent management of financial resources.

KATHY ROOYAKKERS

BOARD CHAIR
WETASKIWIN AND AREA LODGE AUTHORITY

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KATHY ROOYAKKERS – BOARD CHAIR
WAYNE NEILSON – VICE CHAIR
KEN ADAIR
LYNN CARWELL
GERDIE HOGSTEAD
JOE BRANCO

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

It was wonderful to see our lodge marketing strategies paying off with so many more residents making their home at both Peace Hills and West Pine Lodges throughout 2024. An organization-wide group of lodge managers and administrative staff have been working together and sharing creative strategies for helping the public to understand the services provided in a lodge setting and the benefits of lodge living. It has been great to see such collaboration and innovative thinking to demonstrate how our seniors' lodges support the community.

Board members and administration were pleased to participate in the provincial lodge program review engagement session to identify areas within the provincial lodge program that require a different approach in order to meet the changing needs of clients accessing this service. The provincial Lodge Program Review Committee prepared a report with a number of recommendations for the Minister. We look forward to the release of this report to assist us in planning for future direction.

The new Continuing Care Act came into effect April 1, 2024 and for our lodges, this meant a change in the areas of compliance monitoring and accommodation licensing renewals. It has taken a number of months to sort out these changes with the ministry staff but we are seeing resolution and receiving our renewed licenses as well as responding positively to changes to compliance monitoring with successful audits.

We have also been able to participate at a number of provincial tables discussing lodge, housing and continuing care system changes and advocating for areas that require further consideration.

In terms of workplace culture and employee support, a number of opportunities presented themselves over the past year…we were able to include lodge employees with our continuing care teams in a Wellness Conference that was funded through an Alberta Health grant; we initiated a workplace culture program that we call mYsoul@work that teaches staff about the importance of emotional intelligence, how to bring spirit to the workplace, why they matter and how they make a difference as well as how to bring your best self to work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their ongoing work and dedication to make the lodges a warm and inviting home for the residents that we serve.

I would also send my thanks to the many residents and families who put their trust in us all to provide quality housing that includes lodge services such as housekeeping, enticing meals and enjoyable activities.The Lodge program allows residents to participate in the life of the lodge as much as they choose while enabling them to continue to participate in the external community as they like.

The Bethany Group is proud to provide the administrative function for Wetaskiwin and Area Lodge Authority (WALA) and we thank the WALA Board for their ongoing support of Administration for West Pine Lodge in Winfield and Peace Hills Lodge in Wetaskiwin.

CARLA BECK

CEO, THE BETHANY GROUP
CAO, WETASKIWIN AND AREA LODGE AUTHORITY (WALA)

BUSINESS PLAN 2023-2025
YEAR THREE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OUTCOME # 1 INVESTING NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

The June 2024 Capital Maintenance request to the Government of Alberta was $857,000 for projects at both Peace Hills and West Pine Lodge. WALA is extremely excited to share that funding of $611,000 has been awarded. This will see mechanical systems upgrades at West Pine Lodge and the replacement of the nurse call system and geothermal lines at Peace Hills Lodge.

Additionally, a business case for room modernization was presented to government, this cost-sharing proposal was accepted, and an additional $220,000 was allocated to convert 8 smaller rooms into 4 larger spaces and convert tubs to showers throughout the facility.

Work on these three projects will begin in 2025.

OUTCOME # 2 INTEGRATED HOUSING AND SUPPORTS

Wetaskiwin and Area Lodge Authority is committed to providing an affordable housing option for seniors so they can live in their community of choice. Receiving regular resident feedback and seeking out areas of improvement are an important part of meeting the needs of our residents and communities.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

The 2024/2025 initiative is Admission and Move-Ins: A Welcoming Experience. Residents and families were consulted on their move-in experience and with this feedback, improvement to processes have been suggested. Sites are currently testing standardized checklists and making additional recommendations.

A Food Services committee has been established and is building on the work of the previous quality improvement initiative to ensure consistent food quality and cost-effective ordering. Seasonal menus are shared with residents in advance to allow an opportunity for their feedback.

OUTCOME # 3 TRANSITIONS AND AGING IN THE COMMUNITY

WALA is monitoring legislative changes and best practices in the continuing care and affordable housing sectors of Alberta. Assisted Living Alberta was established by the Province on April 1, 2025 and WALA is looking for opportunities for improved coordination of the delivery of services to our residents.

The Crossroads Adult Day Support Program for Wetaskiwin and area continues to be offered at the Peace Hills Lodge, and is being well used by people in the community.

OUTCOME #4 FAIR AND FLEXIBLE

WALA looks to find a balanced approach to offering fair and affordable rents and service packages, identifying operational efficiencies and best practices while being mindful of the use of local tax requisition dollars. Increasing costs and Inflationary pressures are a top-of-mind issue for our lodges.

Board members from WALA and The Bethany Group Administration participated in the Seniors Lodge Program Review consultations in March 2024 and have advocated for needs of rural lodges and fair funding support from the Provincial Government. We are awaiting the release of the final report, and hope to see recommendations that can be implemented that will improve the lives of the residents and improve the sustainability of the lodge program.

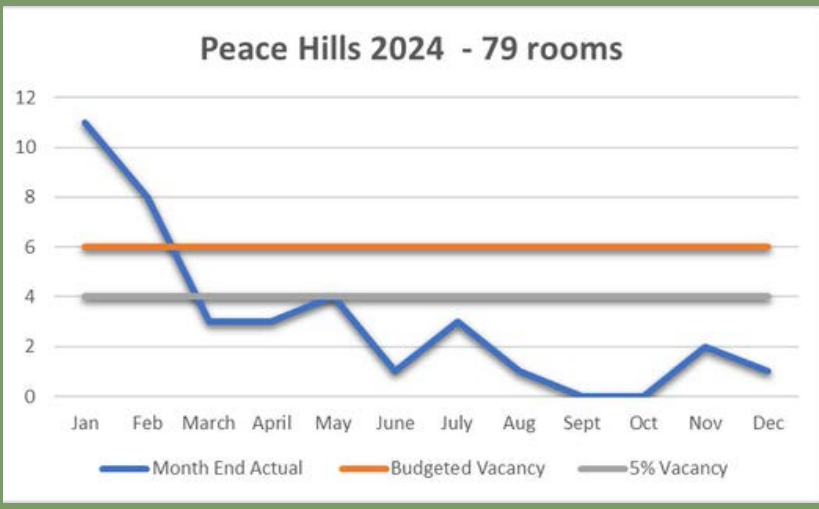
WALA will be advocating for increased financial support from the provincial government, to address rising costs and to protect low to moderate income seniors without sacrificing service quality.

OUTCOME #5 A SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM

WALA has completed a board skills assessment to ensure targeted skills and knowledge at the board level to support good local governance.

The lodge marketing working group continues to review and update best practices and develop new promotional tools.

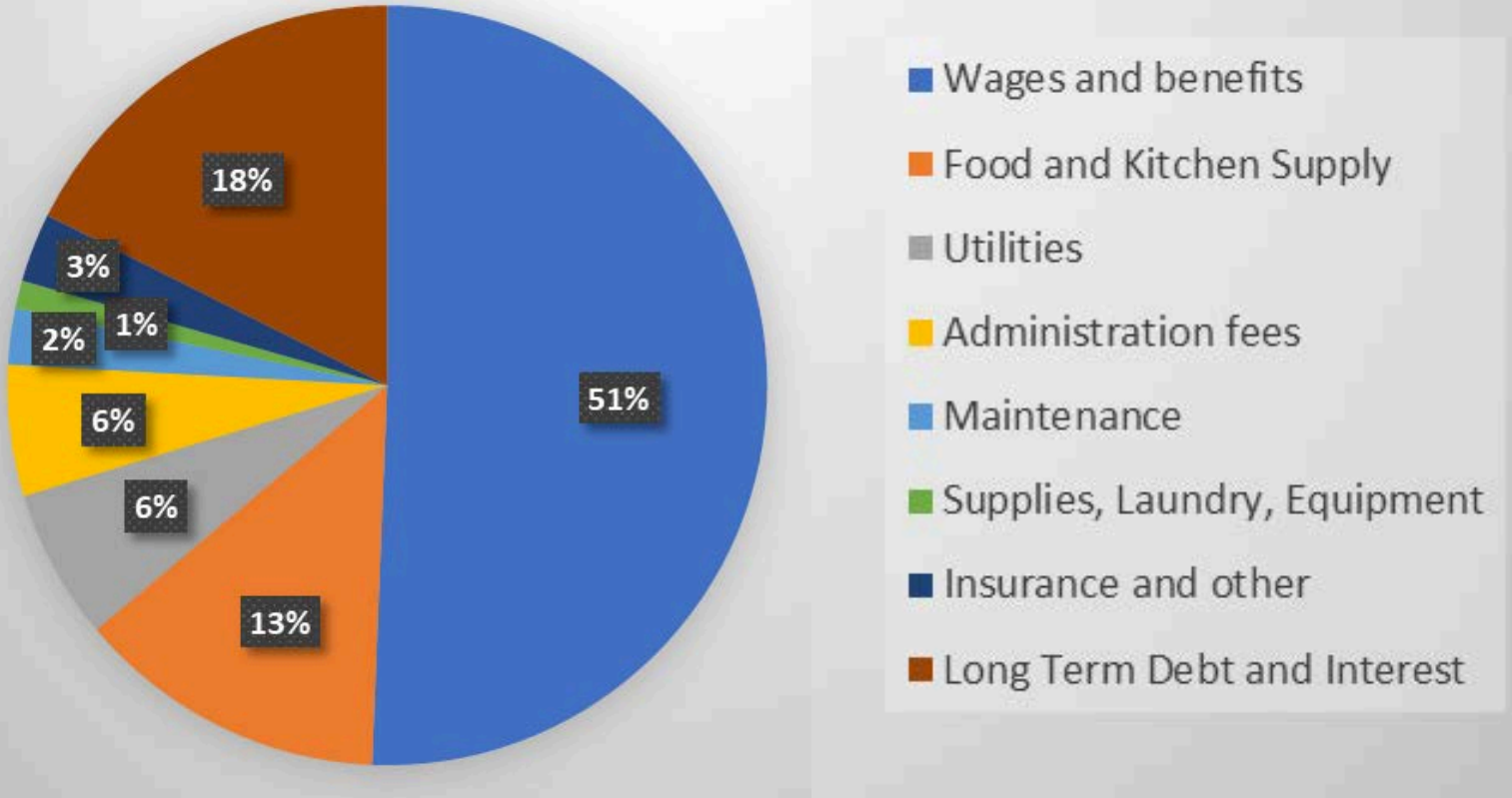
Peace Hills Lodge achieved 99% occupancy in 2024 and continues to be functionally full into 2025. West Pine occupancy remains low but stable. The announced investments into room modernization at West Pine will make the suites more appealing for area seniors.



WALA 2024 REVENUE



WALA 2024 EXPENSES



To view the full 2024 Financial statements, please visit our website at www.wetaskiwinlodges.ca























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