2023

Wetaskiwin & Area Lodge Authority

Annual Report







Prepared by
The Bethany Group

A commitment to providing a Caring Community.



Board Chair Message

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. I would like to thank Councillor Dean Billingsley for his two years of service on the board and welcome his replacement, Councillor Joe Branco. 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

2023 Board of Directors

Kathy Rooyakkers – Board Chair
Dean Billingsley – Vice Chair
Ken Adair
Lynn Carwell
Gerdie Hogstead
Wayne Neilson

CAO Message

Early 2023 continued to demonstrate challenges with occupancy in lodges across Alberta but we are pleased to see an increase in people moving in to their new homes in Peace Hills and West Pine Lodges!

We have had opportunities throughout 2023 to advocate for the provincial lodge program – meeting with Minister Nixon on a variety of occasions; promoting the desire for additional services within our lodges; joining our industry partners in participation in the provincial lodge program review and continued efforts to demonstrate the need for program changes to better meet the needs of current and future lodge residents.

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..

Respectfully,

Carla Beck,
CEO, The Bethany Group
CAO, Wetaskiwin and Area Lodge Authority (WALA)

Business Plan 2023-2025
Year Two Accomplishments

Outcome # 1 Investing Now and In the Future

- The June 2023 Capital Maintenance request to the Government of Alberta was of $707,000 for projects at both Peace Hills and West Pine Lodge. No funding was awarded to these projects in Budget 2024/2025.
- A separate request of $800,000 for West Pine Lodge to modernize suites and washrooms has also been submitted, with no funding awarded in Budget 2024/2025.

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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.

2.1 Quality Improvement

- Our 2023/2024 initiative is Admission and Move-Ins: A Welcoming Experience. In 2023, Quality Improvement Teams reviewed the current practices and procedures and sought feedback from residents and their families on their experience. In 2024, pilot projects will be tested at various sites and final recommendations will be made.

2.2 Resident Surveys

“The staff here are so pleasant and polite. I love it here.”

Quote from resident, 2023 Peace Hills Lodge Survey

Residents of the lodges provided their feedback on their living environment. The surveys were completed in November, results tabulated and action plans were developed to address areas of concern. Results were shared back with residents during Spring Tenant meetings. This process reflects our commitment to person-centered care, responsiveness to resident needs and transparency.

Outcome # 3 Transitions and Aging in the Community

- WALA is monitoring legislative changes and best practices in continuing care and affordable housing sector of Alberta. We are working proactively with AHS in their planning processes on delivery models to improve continuity of care for lodge residents.
- The Crossroads Adult Day Support Program for Wetaskiwin and area is being offered at the Peace Hills Lodge, and is being well used by people in the community.

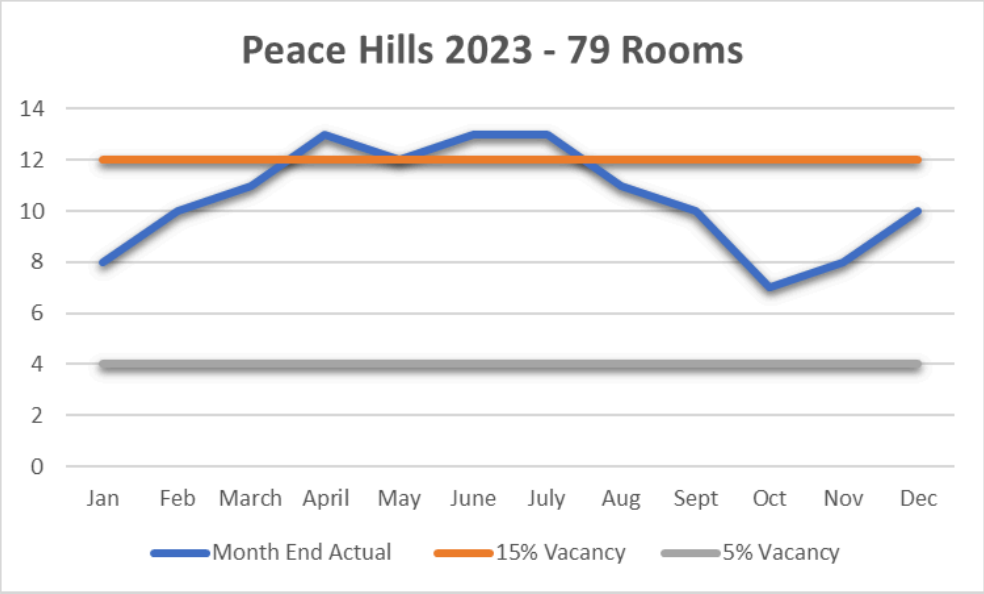
Outcome #4 Fair and Flexible

- 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.

- We would like to thank the Province of Alberta for their financial support during the pandemic. The funding program ended December 31, 2023. Over the 4 years of the program, WALA received $1,066,494. These funds were used for staffing, supplies and to stabilize revenue during periods of occupancy loss.
- Board members from WALA and Bethany Group Administration have participated in the Seniors Lodge Program Review consultations in March 2024 and have advocated for the needs of rural lodges and fair funding support from the Provincial Government.

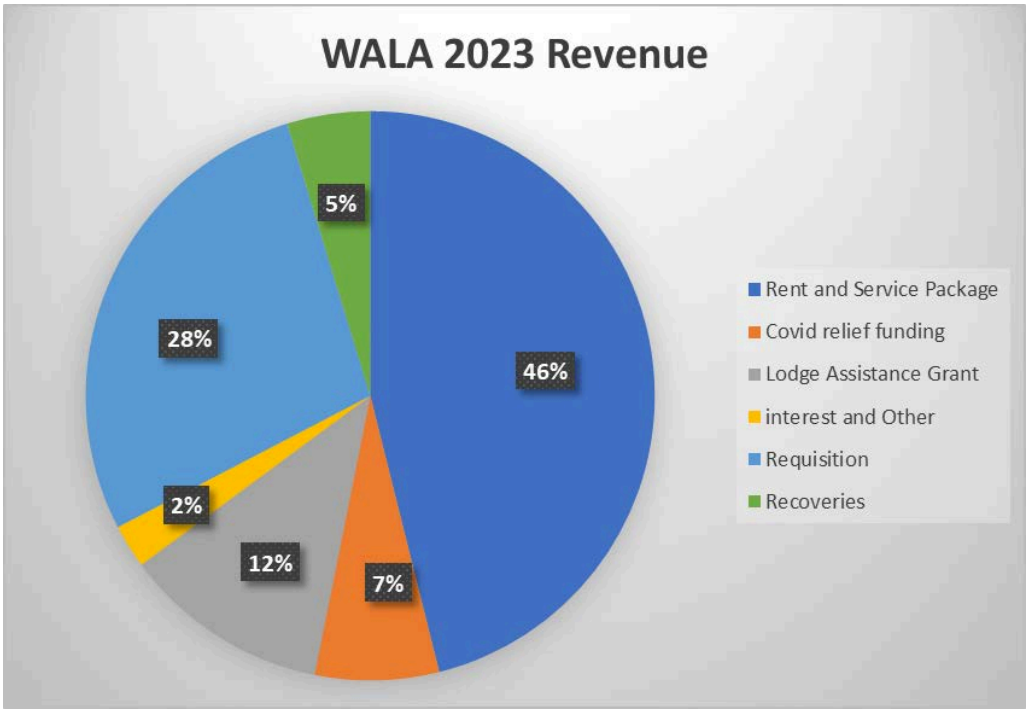
Outcome #5 A Sustainable System

- 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. At Peace Hills, two successful open houses were hosted that resulted in applications and move-ins. The six couple's suites are fully occupied as of Spring 2024. West Pine occupancy remains low but stable.

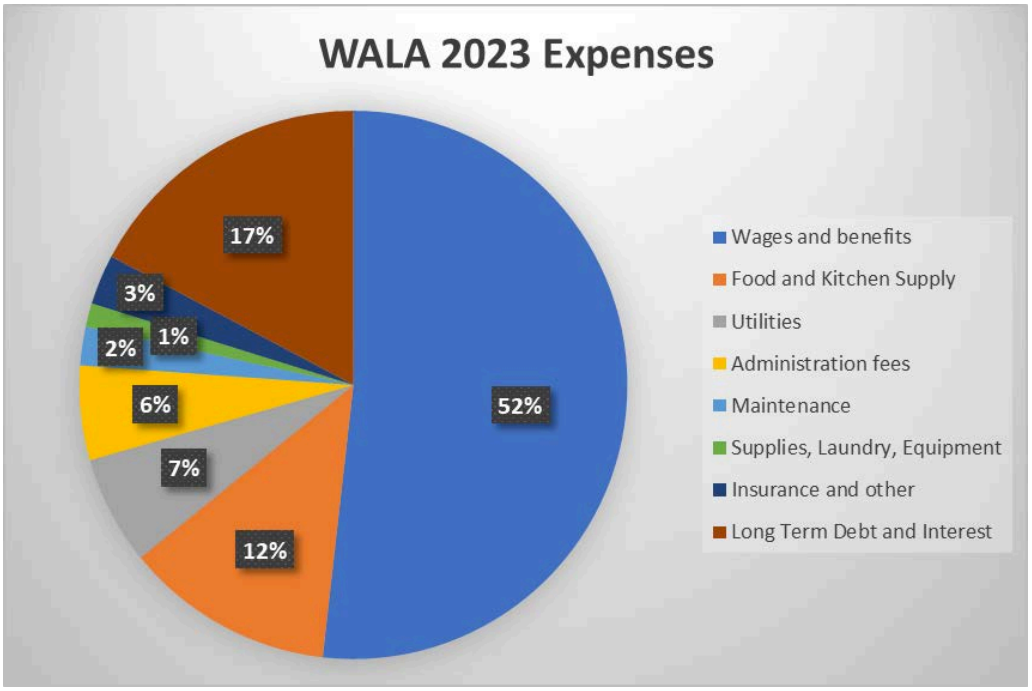


WALA will be advocating for increased financial support from the provincial government, to address rising costs and to protect low to moderate income seniors without sacrificing service quality.

WALA 2023 Revenue



WALA 2023 Expenses



To view the full 2023 Financial Statement, please visit our website at https://wetaskiwinlodges.ca/about-us



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Contact Us

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