ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Wetaskiwin & Area Lodge Authority

wala

THE BETHANY GROUP

PREPARED BY THE BETHANY GROUP



OUTGOING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BARRY CLARKSON – BOARD CHAIR
WAYNE NEILSON – VICE CHAIR
BILL KRAHN
IAN RUSKOWSKY
KELLY KAYFISH-WINKLER
MARK ELDER

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 inflation impacting daily living expenses, the lodge rent and service packages remain very appealing to budget conscious seniors.

The 2025 municipal elections brought many changes to our board. Our long-standing Board Chair Kathy Rooyakkers stepped away from public service. Her leadership and commitment to seniors in the Wetaskiwin County service area was unwavering. Her passion for our work was inspiring and I will do my best to follow her footsteps. I extend thanks from the community to not only Kathy, but to Ken Adair, Lynn Carwell, Joe Branco and Gerdie Hogstead for their time on the board.

It is an honor to serve our communities and seniors. For 2026, we welcome representing the City of Wetaskiwin Wayne Neilson and Mark Elder, the County of Wetaskiwin Bill Krahn, Ian Ruskowsky and Barry Clarkson and the Town of Millet Kelly Kayfish-Winkler. We hope this annual report reflects our continued commitment to a high-quality home environment for residents and prudent management of financial resources.

BARRY CLARKSON

BOARD CHA

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

It is an honour to share with the community the work that continues to be completed by Wetaskiwin and Area Lodge Authority (WALA) to support the seniors who reside in our lodges and their importance to our communities.

We continue to see increased occupancy and are pleased to have full occupancy at Peace Hills Lodge with a 'healthy waitlist' as well as a substantial increase in occupancy at West Pine Lodge. This not only demonstrates the need for this service in our community but also the wonderful environment that our residents and staff create.

That warm and welcoming environment in the lodge is also measured in a variety of legislated ways. Many audits take place to ensure that the lodges and WALA as a Housing Management Body are accountable to the expectations of the people who we serve and to our provincial government. Audits such as Accommodation Standards with important measures such as menu and nutritional requirements, and resident safety and security; in sites where care is provided Continuing Care Health Service Standards also apply; then there are Public Health and Occupational Health and Safety Audits to ensure we have strong safety and health practices in place; important as well are the financial audits which occur each year from an external auditor and which are approved by the Board. The results of these audits are important indicators of baseline compliance and are shared with the provincial government, participating municipalities and other stakeholders.

While we are pleased to meet standards requirements, we continually want to achieve more for the seniors who choose Peace Hills or West Pine Lodge as their home. Work within Peace Hills Lodge has focused on continual updates to paint, lighting fixtures, and new washers and dryers, while West Pine Lodge is undergoing suite and common area transformation. We are also pleased to have staff participate in ongoing education opportunities to enhance their skills and their abilities to 'bring their best selves to work'.

2025 saw a ministry name change, with the Ministry of Assisted Living and Social Services (ALSS) being created and Assisted Living Alberta (ALA) coming into being on April 1, 2025. With continuing care now being part of the same ministry as housing and lodges, there is the potential for service enhancements across the spectrum. Administration has been pleased to be invited to take part in working groups to look at recommendations from the provincial lodge program review and share our operational experience with changes that may be needed to support quality seniors' living in our lodges. We also work individually and within our industry associations to advocate for the needs that we see within the ALSS service streams. Our Stakeholder Relations Advisor was invited to speak, together with Government of Alberta staff at the Alberta Municipalities Convention on Housing Management Bodies and their roles – this was an important topic considering the many changes that took place with municipal elections this year.

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. I also share my thanks with 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 Peace Hills and West Pine Lodges. I share my appreciation of the outgoing board members and welcome the new members to the WALA Board. It is a privilege to serve together, and I look forward to furthering the development of our caring communities!

Respectfully,

CARLA BECK

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

BUSINESS PLAN 2026-2028
YEAR ONE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OUTCOME # 1 CAPITAL MAINTENANCE & RENEWAL (CMR) AND NEW CAPITAL

The June 2025 Capital Maintenance request to the Government of Alberta totaled $426,000 for projects at both Peace Hills and West Pine Lodge. While no new funding was announced in 2026, funding has carried over for continuing work on mechanical systems improvements and suite renewals at West Pine Lodge. The nurse call system replacement at Peace Hills Lodge was completed in 2025.

An amenities, furniture, fixtures and equipment assessment process has been initiated. This will inform future planning and budgeting and is focused on enhancing the overall resident experience. In 2025, Peace Hills Lodge improvements have included updated paint colours during unit turn-overs, upgraded lighting and fixtures and new washers and dryers in the resident laundry rooms. West Pine Lodge has planned for common area improvements in conjunction with the suite renewal work in order to minimize the frequency of disruption to residents.

OUTCOME # 2 THE RESIDENT EXPERIENCE

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.

2025 saw continued progress in the Admission and Move-Ins: A Welcoming Experience quality improvement initiative. Implementation of standardized checklists for all sites and updates to welcome books are nearing completion.

The 2024 Meal-Time Experience initiative continues to have a positive impact on resident services. A 30-day review period prior to seasonal menu changes and feedback opportunities from residents help make the dining experience something to look forward to.

Resident activities have benefited from staff participating in professional development. We also would like to thank all those who volunteer their time to bring new experiences and entertainment to the lodges.

OUTCOME # 3 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

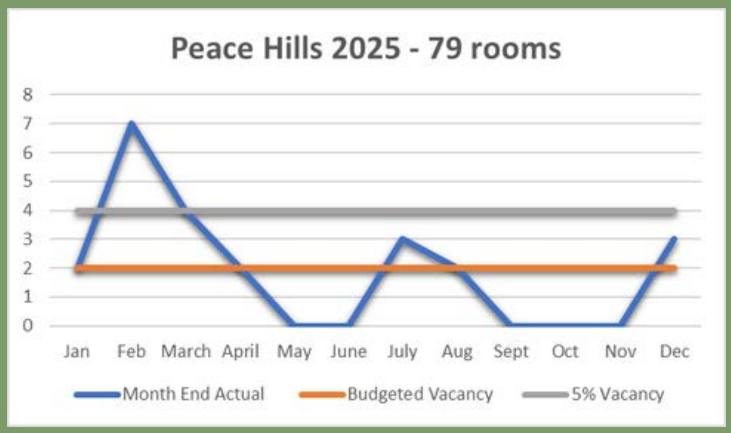
WALA is monitoring legislative changes and best practices in the continuing care and affordable housing sectors of Alberta. Assisted Living Alberta was established by the Province on April 1, 2025 and WALA is looking for opportunities for improved co-ordination of the delivery of services to our residents.

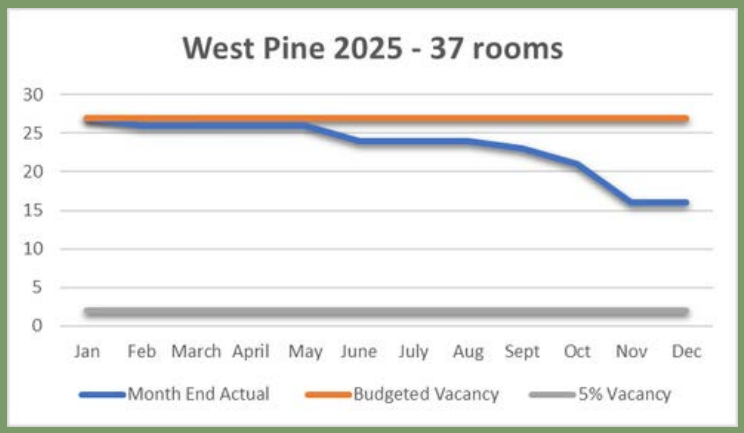
The Crossroads Adult Day Support Program for Wetaskiwin and area continues to be offered at the Peace Hills Lodge, and is being well used by people in the community.

OUTCOME #4 SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

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 top-of-mind issues for our lodges.

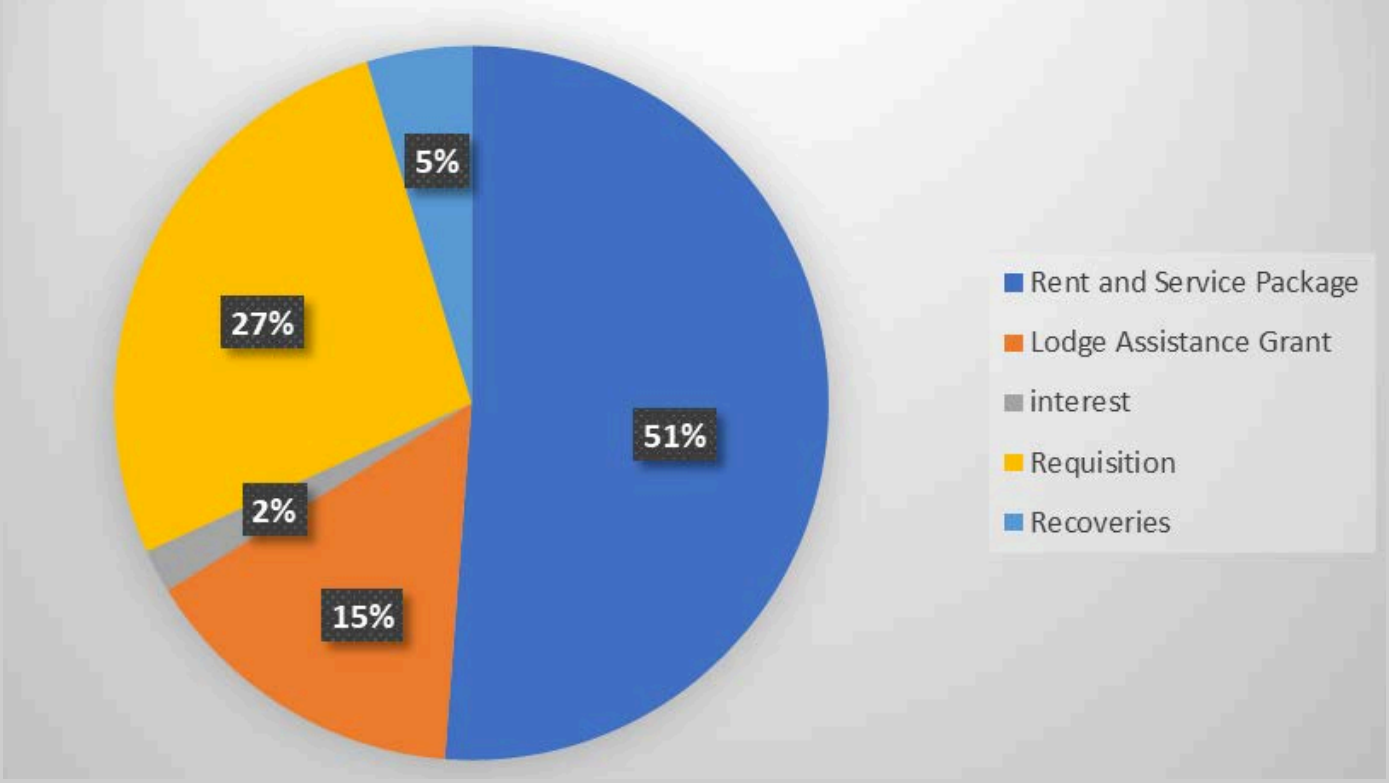
Peace Hills Lodge continues to be functionally full into 2025. West Pine occupancy has improved throughout the year and we hope this trend continues with the scheduled room improvements.



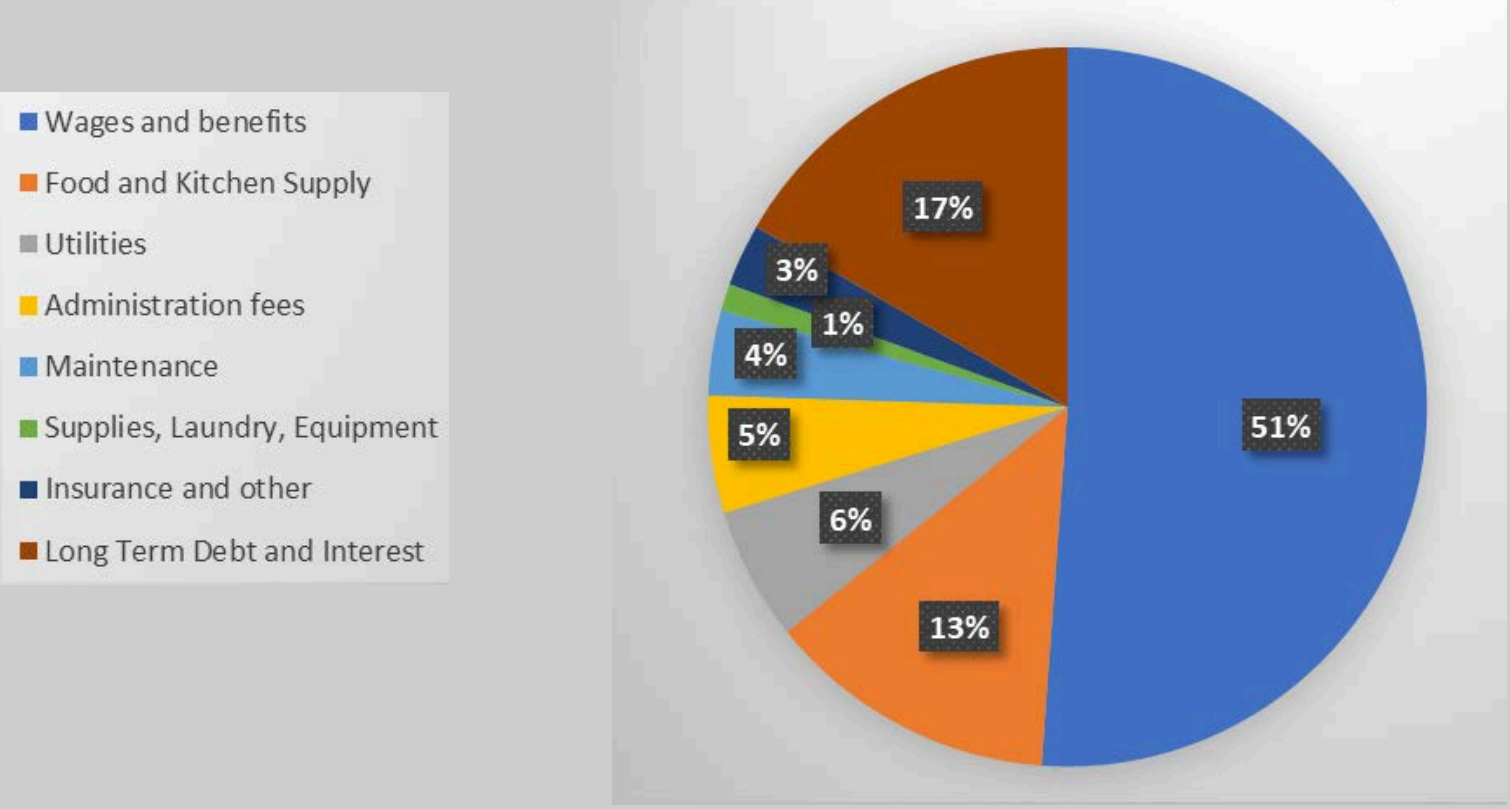


WALA would like to thank the Ministry of Assisted Living and Social Services for increased funding support available through the Lodge Assistance Grant Program. The per day amount, combined with the number of eligible residents living at the lodges resulted in an additional $35,000 to fund lodge operations.

WALA 2025 REVENUE



WALA 2025 EXPENSES



To view the full 2025 Financial statements, please visit our website at www.wetaskiwinlodges.ca













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@ Peace Hills Lodge and
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