The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics report, *Transition Homes in Canada: National, Provincial and Territorial Fact Sheets, 2009-10*, was released on October 25, 2011. This report expands on information first released in a June 2011 *Juristat*, “Shelters for abused women in Canada, 2010.” It reveals that there were almost 5,000 admissions of women and their children to shelters across Saskatchewan in 2009/10. On April 15, 2010, there were 408 residents in shelters in Saskatchewan, an increase of 113 residents (38%) from two years earlier: 43% were women and 57% were dependent children. 72% of women residing in shelters on that date were there primarily for abuse, a rate of 30 for every 100,000 women. This was the highest rate among the provinces and above the national rate of 23.

This report presents a profile of shelters by province and territory that offer services to abused women and their children. It also provides a profile of clients who resided in shelters on April 15, 2010. Most of the data is from the 2009-10 Transition Home Survey, a census survey of residential facilities for female victims of domestic violence, conducted every two years.

The information is based on a broader definition of women's shelters than that used by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. This study covers all Saskatchewan residential facilities for abused women and their dependent children (26 in total). This includes women's shelters funded by the province (10) and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Northern Development Canada (4), YWCA residential services (3) as well as second stage housing.

**Highlights**

- In 2009/2010, there were almost 5,000 admissions of women and children to the 26 shelters operating in Saskatchewan offering services for abused women. Among these shelters, there were 10 transition homes, seven second-stage housing shelters, six emergency shelters, two women’s emergency centres, and one residential healing centre.

- Shelters in Saskatchewan provided 546 licensed beds to clients, an average of 21 beds per facility. This was an increase of 86 beds (19%) since 2008. This increase is primarily related to the development of new residential services focusing on transitional housing for homeless women and children, and not on housing specifically for abused women.

- Many services were available to women residents of shelters in Saskatchewan, the most frequent of which were housing referrals (92%), advocacy on behalf of women (88%), life skills training (85%) and individual short-term counselling (85%). In addition, eight in ten (81%) shelters in Saskatchewan offered medical services, more than any other province and well above the national average of about half (49%).

- The following services were most frequently offered to child residents of shelters in Saskatchewan: outdoor recreation (77%), indoor recreation (69%), individual counselling (58%), and group counselling (58%).

- About four in ten (42%) shelters in Saskatchewan indicated that they served an on-reserve population. Of these, many (82%) provided services sensitive to Aboriginal women, compared to two-thirds (67%) of shelters that did not serve an on-reserve population. In addition, services were available in Cree at 54% of shelters.
• Many shelters in Saskatchewan also offered services to clients with special needs: 69% offered at least one wheelchair accessible entrance, 35% offered access to teletypewriters, and 27% offered large-print reading material.

• All shelters offered services in English; service in French was offered at 15% of Saskatchewan’s shelters, compared to 58% of shelters nationally.

Resident profile on Snapshot Day (April 15, 2010)

• There were 408 residents in Saskatchewan’s shelters for abused women on April 15, 2010, an increase of 113 residents (38%) from two years before. Over half (57%) of the residents were dependent children, making Saskatchewan the only province with children representing the majority of residents on snapshot day.

• One-third (33%) of women and children in shelters in Saskatchewan on snapshot day were in emergency shelters, while slightly fewer (31%) were in second-stage housing facilities.

• In Saskatchewan, 30 women were turned away from shelters on April 15, 2010; the most frequent reason for not providing admission was that the shelter was full.

• About one-third (35%) of women in shelters in Saskatchewan on snapshot day were repeat clients; of these women, 63% had stayed at the shelter one time in the past 12 months.

• On snapshot day, nearly three-quarters (72%) of women in shelters in Saskatchewan were there primarily because of abuse, a rate of 30 for every 100,000 women. This rate was the highest among the provinces and above the Alberta rate of 21 per 100,000 women, the national rate of 23 per 100,000 women, and the Manitoba rate of 24 per 100,000 women.

• Just under half (49%) of abused women residing in shelters in Saskatchewan on snapshot day identified a current common-law partner as their abuser. Almost one-quarter (23%) reported that a current or former spouse was their abuser.

• Almost half (47%) of abused women residents in Saskatchewan stated that the most recent abusive situation was brought to police attention. In addition, resident women indicated that the majority (60%) of reported cases resulted in charges being laid against the accused individual.

• Two in ten women (19%) in shelters in Saskatchewan cited a housing emergency as a reason for seeking shelter, compared to the Canadian average of 12%. 