YWCA WESTMAN

YWCA Westman Women's Campus Project

Safety. Healing. Hope. *A place to move forward.*

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ywcawestman.ca

1080 Architecture Planning + Interiors

number TEN architectural group

The renderings throughout this document are for illustrative purposes only.

About Us

YWCA Westman has been in existence since 1910 providing care and support within our community and region. Led by a volunteer board of directors, YWCA Westman in a non-profit charitable organization. We are committed to our core values to advocate for, include, protect and empower individuals and their families who have been impacted by gender-based violence and we operate the Westman Women's Shelter as a 24/7/365 crisis facility for those who are fleeing violence. Once safe, our team works with survivors and their families to seek the services and care that they need (including health, justice, employment and housing) empowering them to rebuild a life for themselves and their children that is free from violence.

In 2025, YWCA supported more than 450 clients fleeing violence, 184 of which were children. Over the past 5 years, 2,850 people have found safety within the walls of our organization, 44% of whom were children. Since 2020, women and their children have pulled the covers around them, knowing they were safe for more than 31,000 nights. Our crisis calls are answered any time of the day or night, more than 830 times in 2025 and over 4,800 calls were answered since 2020.

In addition to these core programs and services, YWCA Westman delivers youth programming such as Safe Space in schools and Strength in Me, an annual one-day gathering for young people focused on healthy relationships, career development and confidence-building. Every spring, we are pleased to celebrate the Women of Distinction Awards, celebrating the contributions and leadership of women in communities across southwestern Manitoba.

In 2025, the Westman Women's Shelter had to turn away 75 individuals because it was at capacity. The year before that it was 81. Crisis line staff work with callers to access another shelter in Manitoba, or create a suitable safety plan.

The Women's Campus Vision

The Women's Campus is envisioned as much more than a shelter or housing project. It is intended to function as a coordinated, trauma-informed platform that helps women and families access, navigate, and remain connected to services. Located on YWCA-owned land in downtown Brandon, this project will be a transformative centre of safety, healing and hope. The Campus will not only bridge gaps in current service delivery within the region, it will also improve the pathways between services and strengthen coordination and support around individuals and families. The Campus will be a space for sexual and domestic violence supports, health, law enforcement and justice to integrate within one facility and provide responsive, trauma-informed supports.

Rural Manitoba and Saskatchewan have the highest domestic violence rates across Canada. Manitoba reports approximately 630 victims of intimate partner violence per 100,000 population, significantly higher than the national average.

Project Elements

Trauma-Informed Justice Supports

- Trauma-informed interview spaces for law enforcement partners
- Westman's first remote testimony space
- Cultural supports embedded in service delivery areas

Crisis Services

- Trauma-informed intake and support (including pet kennels)
- Westman's first Sexual Assault Examination Suite
- Navigation service to connect with community resources

Commercial Retail

- Potential public health and women's health service delivery
- Social enterprise supporting the skill development and employment of women

Housing

- Emergency housing for women and children (up to 45 beds)
- Men are supported at an off-site location
- 20 transitional, supportive housing units for survivors of domestic
- Childminding spaces
- Cultural supports throughout housing continuum

The Impact

Housing

35% increase in the number of emergency housing spaces for individuals and their children fleeing violence, including enhanced counselling, childminding and programming spaces. 20 transitional and supportive housing units will be available for up to 2 years for families rebuilding following violence. In the current housing market, single women and single mothers with large families have a particularly difficult time finding safe and suitable housing. As such, the units will range from 1-4 bedrooms, with 2 fully accessible suites and 2 Grandmother's Suites to house on-site elders who will provide cultural supports. Navigation spaces for support staff, health service delivery and community resources will be included in the design.

Health Services

Health services will include Westman's first sexual assault examination suite. Currently survivors of sexual assault report to the closest emergency room, but unfortunately forensic nurses trained to deliver specialized care are not always available. In those cases, survivors must travel to Winnipeg for care, or in many cases choose not to undergo the examination and follow-up required. This suite will serve all southwestern Manitoba, reducing strain on our emergency rooms and police services, while also providing survivors with critical care and follow-up supports that they deserve.

Revenue generating commercial lease space may become home to public and women's health services for Brandon and Westman.

Justice Services

Justice services within the region will be enhanced with soft interview rooms for law enforcement to work with survivors of gender-based and sexual violence, in a space that is supported by the appropriate physical design and specialized wrap-around services. Western Manitoba's first remote testimony space will support survivors and children who are testifying in a trauma-informed space so they do not have to come face to face with their abusers.

A 2026 Manitoba study found that 68% of children entering shelters in the province were witness to abuse in the home; 23% of children were a victim of violence in the home.

Project Value

- A transformational initiative such as the Women's Campus requires the support of every level of government; federal, provincial and municipal. Work with all funders is ongoing to secure contributions for this project that will benefit the entire region.
- Community contributions are also critical to the success of this project and convey to funding partners the shared vision for the Campus. Families and businesses who are committed to creating a space of safety, healing and hope for women and their children are welcome to connect with us to discuss how we can recognize your contribution through naming rights opportunities throughout the Campus.
- Pre-development funding of $800,000 has been secured through provincial and federal funders as well as private donors. The YWCA Westman Women's Campus construction costs are estimated at 40 Million dollars.
- ***Your contribution is vital to the success of this project!***

More than 4 in 10 women experience some form of violence in relationships. 1 in 4 women have experienced sexual violence. However, only 5% of sexual violence is reported.

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For more information:

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Scan to learn more:

YWCA Westman Women's Shelter 24/7/365 Crisis Line: 1-877-977-0007
Text: 204-400-4007
Live Chat: ywcawestman.ca

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