

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



ALBERTA INSTITUTE
FOR WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE

As we reflect on **2025**, we are incredibly grateful for the dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors, and community supporters who make our work possible. This year has highlighted both the growing need for wildlife rehabilitation and the strength of the community behind it. In **2025**, AIWC cared for more than **2,100 patients** from over **150 species**, our highest annual intake to date. From songbirds and bats to deer fawns, fox kits, raptors, and black bear cubs, each patient represents a second chance made possible through your support.

We also saw a continued rise in admissions related to human-wildlife conflict, with most animals impacted by preventable causes such as window strikes, vehicle collisions, habitat disruption, and domestic pet attacks. These trends reinforce the importance of both rehabilitation and public education.

Our Wildlife Hotline remained a vital resource, supporting thousands of individuals across the province, while our education and outreach programs continued to foster greater awareness and coexistence.

At the same time, increasing patient volumes and rising costs for food, medical supplies, and specialized care have made this one of our most demanding years. Despite these challenges, our team remains committed to providing the highest standard of care to every animal we admit.

Looking ahead, AIWC will continue to focus on expanding capacity, strengthening funding, and investing in both rehabilitation and education. Our goal remains to ensure that every animal in need has the opportunity to return to the wild.

None of this work would be possible without you. Thank you for your continued support and for helping Alberta's wildlife thrive.

With gratitude,

Robyn Cunningham Dunlop

Acting Executive Director

Greg Pauling

Chair, Board of Directors



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WILDLIFE HOTLINE

In **2025**, our Wildlife Hotline remained a vital lifeline for wild animals and the people who care about them across Alberta. We were grateful to receive funding through the Canada Summer Jobs program again, which enabled us to hire four seasonal contract staff members to help meet the surge in demand during the busy summer months.

With the support of our Office Manager, our Service Dispatchers responded to **4,319 calls** over the summer alone, providing guidance, triage support, and coordination of care for wildlife in need. Of these calls, **3,771** came from concerned citizens reporting **sick or injured birds and mammals**. This underscores both the high volume of wildlife emergencies in our province and the public's deep commitment to protecting local species. Additionally, **3,440** calls originated within **Calgary city limits**, highlighting the increasing intersection between urban development and wildlife habitat, as well as the essential role our team plays in supporting coexistence within city spaces.



Beyond phone support and public education, our response extended directly into the field. Our team completed **833 wildlife pick-ups**, safely transporting injured, orphaned, or distressed animals into our care, along with **118 on-site rescues**. Each response required careful coordination, timely assessment, and swift action to ensure animals received the medical attention and rehabilitation support they needed.

Every call represents more than a statistic. It reflects a member of our community choosing compassion, a critical moment of intervention for an animal in distress, and an opportunity to educate the public about responsible wildlife stewardship. We are also grateful that 208 Albertans stepped forward to transport animals directly to our facility, demonstrating remarkable community engagement and shared responsibility.

Through the dedication of our hotline staff, volunteers, and community, we continue to strengthen our role as a trusted provincial resource, helping both wildlife and people navigate the challenges of living side by side.

Hannah Forbes
Office Manager

Calls by Location



- 48.9% Calgary
- 40.8% Other/Alberta
- 7.7% Airdrie
- 2.5% Cochrane





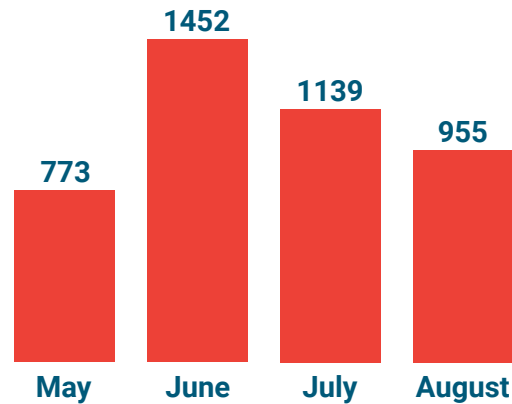
WILDLIFE HOTLINE

From urgent rescues to public guidance, the Wildlife Hotline is often the first step in an animal's journey to recovery.

TOTAL CALLS
7,037



PEAK MONTHLY NUMBERS



MOST CALLS IN ONE DAY

June 11th



60 CALLS

Orphaned Mammal

9.1%

Orphaned Bird

12.2%

Injured/Sick Bird

53.7%

Injured/Sick Mammal

25%

In 2025, 54% of all calls were in response to injured or sick birds, with the most common causes being window strikes, vehicle collisions, and cat attacks, highlighting the ongoing impact of human-wildlife interactions.

54%



HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

Our committed Hotline Volunteers answered **440 calls** outside of standard operating hours, providing early morning and evening coverage to ensure wildlife receives support when it's needed most

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

2025 marked our busiest and most complex year yet in wildlife rehabilitation. From May through September, our clinic operated at full capacity as baby season and increased human-wildlife interactions drove a surge in admissions.

Top 5 Species



- 271 Mallard
- 207 Black-billed Magpie
- 101 American Robin
- 67 Canada Goose
- 66 Northern Flicker

At peak capacity, we were caring for **233 animals at one time**, compared to just **10-20 patients** during the winter months. On our busiest day in June, we admitted **50 patients** in a single day. These periods of intense activity require constant coordination, rapid triage, and around-the-clock care to ensure every patient receives timely and appropriate treatment.

A significant portion of our patients were orphaned juveniles, requiring intensive care including rewarming, rehydration, and ongoing feeding. The second most common admissions were trauma cases, many of which were human-related, such as vehicle collisions, window strikes, and cat or dog attacks.

To support this level of care, our team relies on a combination of skilled clinical assessment and in-house diagnostic tools. All trauma patients receive imaging using our digital radiography system, allowing us to assess fractures and internal injuries quickly and accurately. In **2025** alone, **1,780 X-rays** were performed, with many patients requiring repeat imaging to monitor healing and guide treatment decisions. In more severe cases, surgical intervention is necessary, and our team performed **22 surgical procedures** this year to give patients the best chance at recovery.

As both patient numbers and species diversity continue to grow, so too does the complexity of care. In **2025**, we treated **156 different species**, each with unique dietary, environmental, and medical needs. From specialized diets to species-specific enclosure requirements, every patient presents its own set of challenges.

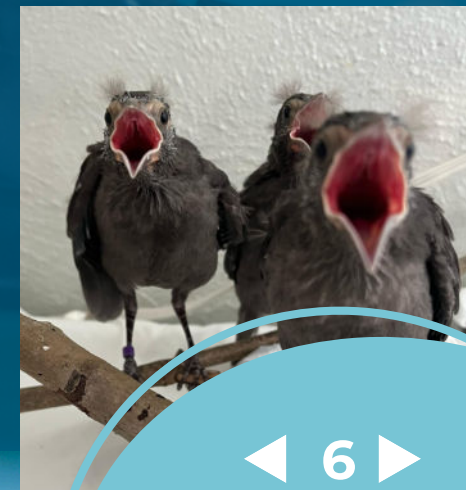
Despite these challenges, our team remained committed to providing the highest standard of care. Throughout the busy season, staff and volunteers continuously adapted, researching new approaches, refining treatment protocols, and balancing the demands of feeding schedules, medical care, and daily husbandry. Their dedication ensures that every animal not only receives appropriate care, but the best care possible on its path back to the wild.

Raelee Barth

Clinic Operations Manager

Cassandra Lacusta

Rehabilitation Manager



WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

2025 was our **busiest year yet** at AIWC, with **2,103 patients across 156 species** admitted to our centre. This represents an **18% increase** from the previous year and marks the highest patient volume we have ever recorded. Here are a few additional milestones from the year:

Of these patients, **1,640** were birds (**78%**), **460** were mammals (**21.9%**), and one each were a reptile and an amphibian.

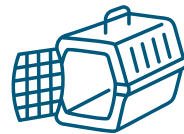


TOTAL PATIENTS
2,103



22 surgical procedures completed

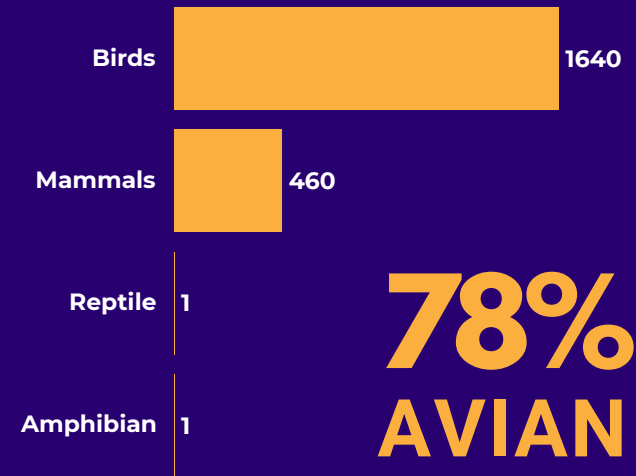
1,780 x-rays performed



50 patients were admitted in a single day!

MOST PATIENTS IN CARE AT ONE TIME

233 PATIENTS
June 15th



78%
AVIAN

Most admissions were orphaned juveniles, followed by trauma cases, many linked to human-wildlife conflict.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

PATIENT HIGHLIGHTS

2025 brought several unique and memorable cases to AIWC:

- First, **Say's Phoebe** was admitted, treated for head trauma, and released after **11 days** (bottom left).
- First **hooded merganser** patient treated for fishing-line entanglement and successfully released (bottom right).
- First **silver morph red fox** admitted, raised with siblings, and released after **six months** of care (top right).

These cases reflect both the diversity of species we now support and the adaptability of our care practices.

To meet increasing demand, we made critical upgrades to our facilities:

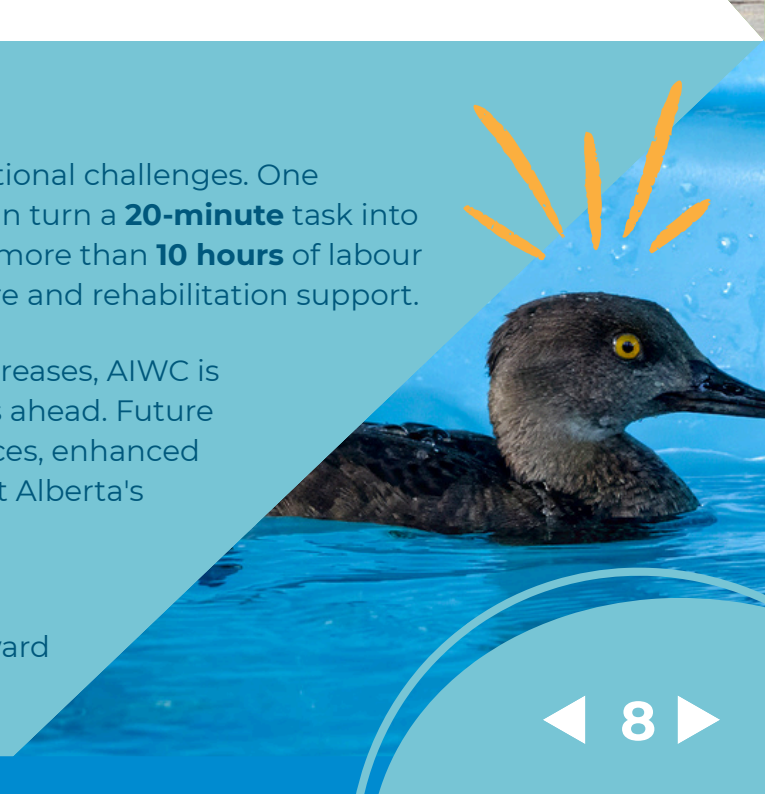
- **Three** new mammal enclosures were constructed to support a wider variety of species while reducing unnecessary interaction.
- These flexible spaces allow for the safe care of species such as foxes, bobcats, skunks, porcupines, and badgers.
- New live-trap equipment improved safe, low-stress handling and supported the successful release of our first bobcat in **10 years**.

GROWTH & LOOKING AHEAD

At the same time, aging infrastructure continues to present operational challenges. One current priority is replacing failing pool drainage systems, which can turn a **20-minute** task into a **1-2 hour** process. Improvements to this system alone could save more than **10 hours** of labour each week, allowing more time to be redirected toward patient care and rehabilitation support.

As patient numbers continue to rise and the complexity of care increases, AIWC is exploring what **long-term facility growth** will look like in the years ahead. Future **expansion** plans include improved medical and rehabilitation spaces, enhanced isolation capabilities, and infrastructure designed to better support Alberta's growing wildlife care needs.

Over the coming years, we look forward to continuing these conversations with our community and supporters as we work toward building a stronger future for wildlife rehabilitation in Alberta.



VETERINARY PROGRAM

As patient needs continue to grow in both volume and complexity, the role of veterinary care at AIWC has never been more essential. In **2025**, our team delivered comprehensive medical support across a wide range of species and conditions. A significant portion of patients were orphaned juveniles, requiring intensive care including rewarming, rehydration, and nutritional support. The next most common cause of admission was trauma, often the result of human-wildlife interactions such as vehicle collisions, window strikes, and domestic animal encounters.

In **2025**, we also expanded our veterinary training programs, hosting students across multiple disciplines for hands-on clinical experience. These placements not only supported our team during peak season but also contributed to the development of future wildlife professionals.

Another major success in **2025** was securing grant funding for new diagnostic equipment, including a microscope and a biochemistry analyzer. These tools have significantly enhanced our ability to perform in-house diagnostics, such as fecals, cytology, and biochemistry panels, and have already proven invaluable in treating an emaciated bear cub and numerous avian patients.

Of course, the year was not without its challenges. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) continued to impact wildlife populations across Alberta, with **18 confirmed positives** and several suspected cases, an increase from previous years. Cases extended into **January 2026** and affected a broader range of species, including striped skunks, black-billed magpies, and multiple owl species. This highly contagious disease can present similarly to head trauma or lead toxicosis, making diagnosis complex and requiring strict isolation protocols. Treating and isolating these patients required dedicating one of our five limited mammal rooms for several weeks, spaces that are difficult to fully isolate and disinfect.

Looking ahead, the development of an expanded hospital facility will be critical to improving isolation capacity, supporting continued growth, and enhancing the level of care we provide to Alberta's wildlife.

Dr. Cara Newberry
Veterinarian



420  treated with pain management medications
PATIENTS

132  were treated with antibiotics for wounds and infections
PATIENTS


VETERINARY PROGRAM

PATIENT STORIES: COMPLEX CARE, REMARKABLE RECOVERIES



25-1528 GREAT HORNED OWL

Admitted with multiple wing fractures and severe emaciation, this owl underwent surgical repair followed by weeks of recovery. Complications arose when a bone infection developed, requiring additional treatment and removal of surgical hardware. Just as recovery neared completion, a secondary injury resulted in the loss of one eye. Despite these setbacks, the owl adapted well, regaining flight strength and hunting ability, and was successfully released after **135 days in care**.



This patient arrived with a severe, necrotic wound over the keel requiring intensive wound management and long-term care. Treatment included surgical debridement, specialized bandaging, and daily supportive feeding. As a diving species, rehabilitation required careful management to balance healing with natural behaviours. After **174 days** in care, including overwintering, the duck fully recovered and was released back into the wild in **spring 2025**.

25-211 MOOSE CALF

One of the most unique cases of the year, this young moose was admitted after being entangled in barbed wire, resulting in minor wounds and a limb deformity. Using a custom-built splint designed by our facilities team, veterinary staff were able to correct the issue non-invasively. As her strength improved, the splint was gradually removed, and she regained normal mobility. She was later transferred to continue rehabilitation with other calves before eventual release.



25-1696 RUDDY DUCK

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VOLUNTEERING

Our committed team of volunteers continues to be a driving force within our organization. In **2025**, AIWC volunteers donated over **7,000 hours** toward caring for wildlife. From time spent on the phone with members of the public to fundraising, food preparation, writing patient stories, transporting animals, and building new enclosures, each hour is an indispensable contribution to our operations.

We saw an increase in volunteer hours from **2024** to **2025**, particularly within our on-site roles. Clinic volunteer hours increased by **8.6%**, while rescue drivers logged **32.1%** more hours than the previous year. The care our volunteers provide does not end once animals leave the hospital, as some patients require long-distance transport to ensure they are released in appropriate locations. One such example includes a woodchuck that was transported an incredible **790 kilometres**.

In **2025**, we onboarded **44 new volunteers** and ended the year with **123 active volunteers**. This represents the highest number of new volunteers since **2021**, and the continued growth of our volunteer base is very encouraging. We have also seen an increase in the number of hours contributed per volunteer. We are truly grateful to each individual who dedicates their time to supporting wildlife in need.

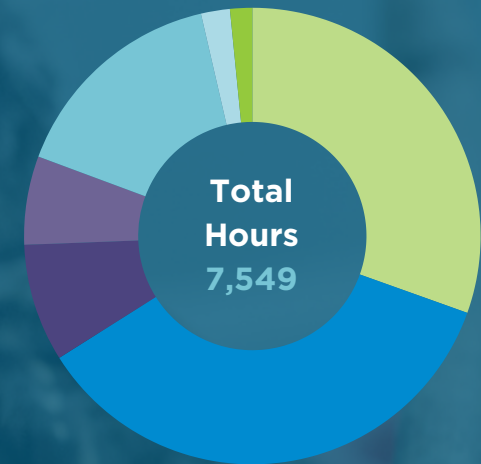
This year, we also introduced a new volunteer management software system, which has improved our ability to recruit, coordinate, and train volunteers. We continue to work to maximize the effectiveness of this platform.

Looking ahead, we are exploring ways to expand our hotline volunteer program to meet the growing demand for wildlife assistance, as more members of the public than ever are seeking guidance on how to safely support wildlife in need.

Alex Kellington

Community Engagement Coordinator

2025 Volunteer Hours



- 35.6% Rescue
- 30.5% Clinic
- 15.7% Facilities
- 8.3% Hotline
- 6.3% Board of Directors
- 2% Public Awareness and Fundraising
- 1.6% Newsletter, Blog, and Other



172 817 km driven by
volunteers

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



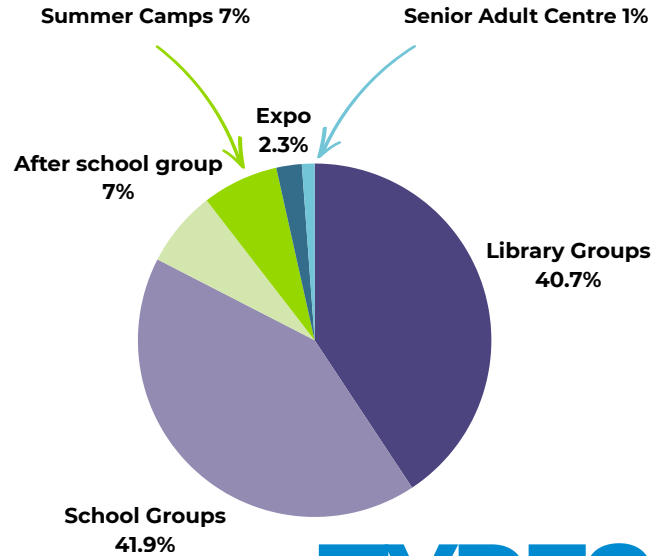
EDUCATION

Our education and public awareness programs were in high demand again this year. In **2025**, we delivered **87 programs** and engaged **2,659 participants** through our education initiatives. This represents an increase of **10.7%** in the number of individuals reached compared to **2024**.

Our most requested program in **2025** was **Supremely Skunks**, followed by **Who's in Your Backyard**, reflecting a strong public interest in learning about urban wildlife. This is an area we are hoping to continue expanding, as increasing awareness of urban wildlife is essential for fostering respect and coexistence as human development continues to grow.

Our most common audiences continue to be school groups and library programs. In **2025**, we also saw an increase in homeschool groups requesting programming. In response, we are continuing to develop resources for at-home learning to support this growing interest. Additionally, we are expanding our online educational resources to reach a broader range of age groups.

MOST PRESENTATIONS IN ONE MONTH
15 in **August**

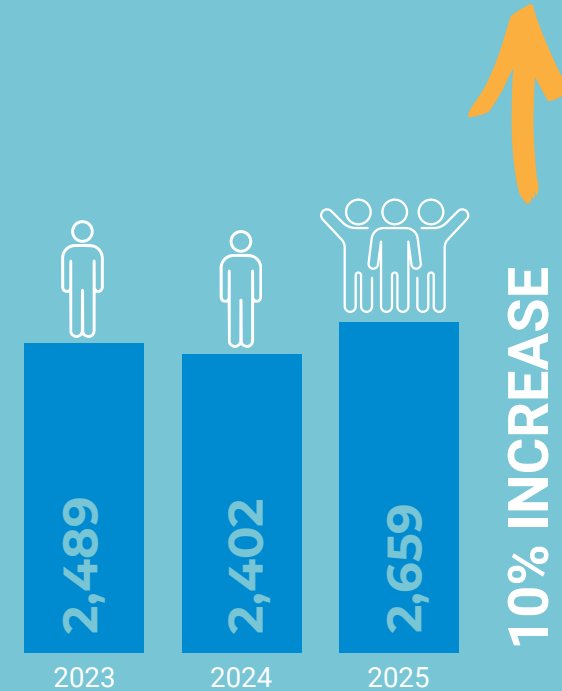


TYPES OF GROUPS PRESENTED TO

87
Programs
Presented



2,659
People Reached



ONLINE LEARNING

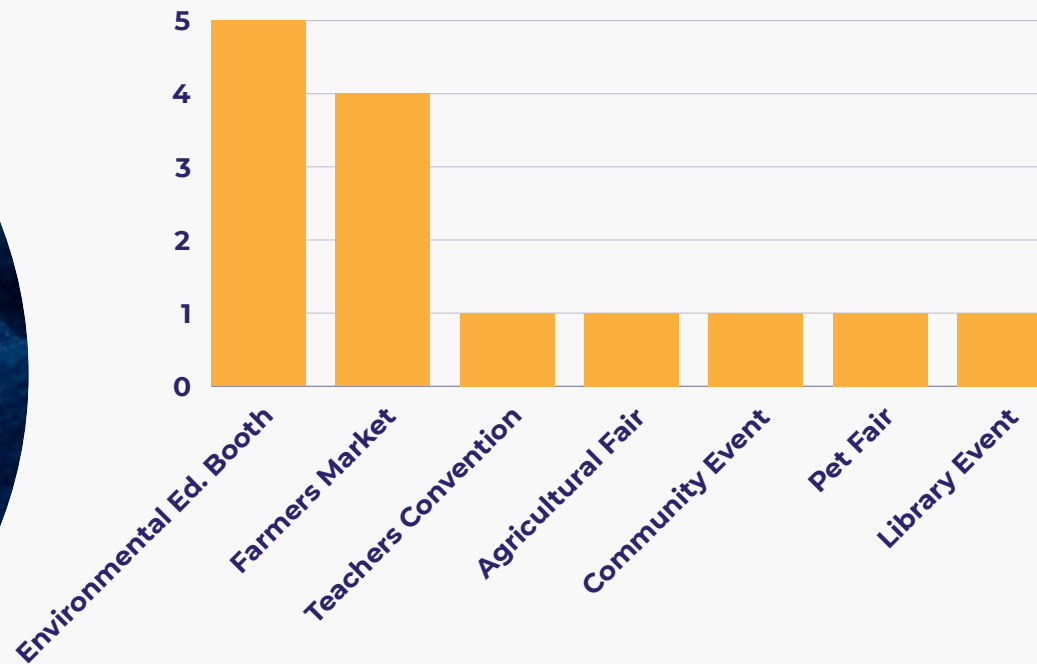
This year, our education assistant also developed a booklet for junior and senior high students focused on wildlife conservation, providing an accessible resource for students interested in pursuing this field.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Our public awareness team attended **14 events in 2025**, with a focus on environmental education booths. These events provided a valuable opportunity to connect with individuals who are passionate about the natural world. In total, we **engaged with 2,944 people** through our public awareness events, including over **800 attendees** at environmental education-focused events.

Our commitment to providing guidance and promoting respect for wildlife remains an integral part of our operations. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our hands-on and self-directed learning resources to further support this goal.



TYPES OF PUBLIC AWARENESS BOOTHS



Number of News Media Stories

COMMUNICATIONS

In **2025**, AIWC continued to expand its digital presence and strengthen how we connect with our community. Social media and digital storytelling remain powerful tools in sharing the stories of our patients, educating the public, and inspiring compassion for Alberta's wildlife.

This year, we expanded onto two new platforms, Threads and Bluesky, broadening our reach and aligning our communications strategy with platforms that better reflect our organizational values. While these platforms are still in early stages for us, they represent an exciting opportunity for future growth and engagement. We look forward to sharing more insights on their performance in next year's report.

Our audience growth across platforms was significant, particularly on Instagram and TikTok, where engaging and educational wildlife content continues to resonate strongly. Through thoughtful storytelling, timely updates, and behind-the-scenes glimpses into rehabilitation, we are reaching more people than ever before and fostering a deeper connection between the public and the wildlife we serve.

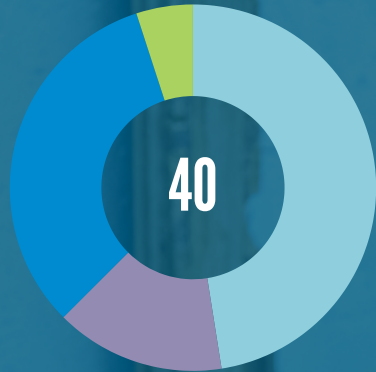
Beyond social media, AIWC maintained a strong presence in traditional media. In **2025**, we were featured in **40 news stories** across television, radio, print, and online publications. These opportunities allow us to amplify our message, share important wildlife education, and highlight the growing need for rehabilitation services across the province.

Video content also remained an important part of our outreach efforts. Our Alberta Wildlife Insider YouTube series continued to take viewers behind the scenes, offering an in-depth look at the care, expertise, and dedication involved in wildlife rehabilitation. In **2025**, we released a feature episode focused on raising baby beavers, one of our most well-known and complex patient groups. Following its success, we hope to release two additional episodes in **2026**.

Across all of these platforms, our goal remains the same: to educate, inspire, and foster a community that cares deeply about wildlife and their future.

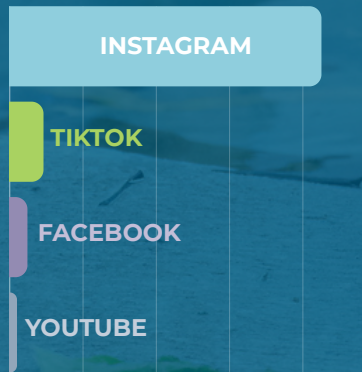
Scottie Potter

Communications Coordinator



- 47.5% Online Articles
- 32.5% TV Features
- 15% Radio Features
- 5% Print Articles

Social Media Follower Growth



- IG + 8,507 followers (46% ↑)
- FB - 483 followers (2% ↓)
- TK + 921 followers (65% ↑)
- YT + 198 subscribers (20% ↑)



COMMUNICATIONS 2025

TOP PERFORMING POSTS OF



01 

Instagram
SPOTTED SANDPIPER



Reach: 1,116,787
Interactions: 238,475

Viral Moment: 
A spotted sandpiper displaying natural tail-bobbing behaviour. 

02 

Instagram
BEAVER LODGE BUILD

Reach: 629,051
Interactions: 112,042

Viral Moment: 
A beaver patient building a lodge. 

04 

Facebook
GREAT HORNED OWL IMPING

Reach: 105,372

03 

Facebook
WHEEL WELL MARMOT RESCUE

Reach: 29,387



These posts highlight how creative storytelling, especially when paired with recognizable audio, can dramatically increase audience reach and engagement.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

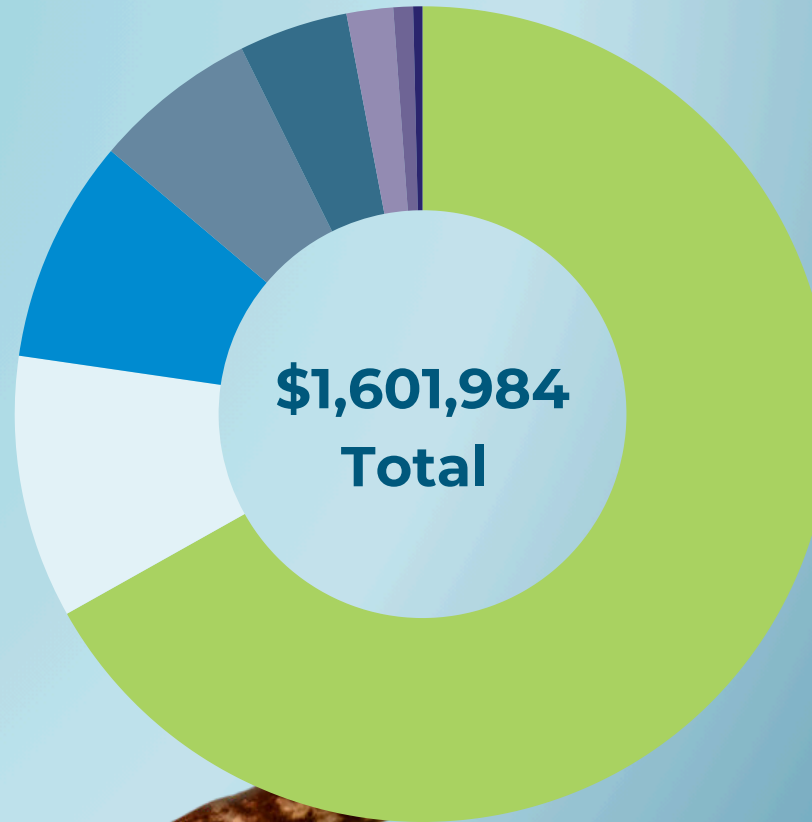
- A. Katherine Checkland
- AE Bowers Elementary School
- Airdrie Christian Academy Society
- Amazon.ca
- Annapolis Capital Limited
- ATCO E.P.I.C
- BearsPaw Waste & Recycling Solutions
- Benefaction Foundation
- Bounty Developments Ltd.
- Bow RiversEdge Campground
- C.H. Andrews Farms Ltd
- Calgary Foundation
- Calgary Properties Lions Club
- Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.
- Cenovus Energy
- Chambers Family Legacy
- Charities Aid Foundation of Canada
- Cheryl Playford Distressed Animal Care Endowment Fund
- Cochrane Foundation
- Cochrane Veterinary Care Clinic
- Connect Charter School
- Cordell Fund
- Costco
- Dana and Davis Fund
- Donmar Foundation
- Dr. Janice L. Pasieka Foundation
- Drummond Leonhardt Family Fund
- DT Kayra Fund at Calgary Foundation
- ECO Canada
- Eric S. Margolis Family Foundation
- Field Law Community Fund
- Gibson Energy
- Giftfunds Canada
- Grant MacEwan Charitable Foundation
- HDR Foundation
- HAI Analytics
- Imperial Oil
- Inter Pipeline Ltd
- Jackie and George Palmer Fund at Calgary Foundation
- Jesse Moses Blander Foundation
- Koafferis Fund
- Lawrence W. West Family Fund
- Mackenzie Investments - Strategic Charitable Giving
- MMG Mortgages
- Multiwood Inc.
- Nature's Way
- Nickle Family Foundation
- Paul Dunphy Productions Inc.
- Ray and Marcy Stader Foundation
- River Path Veterinary Clinic
- Riverbend Campground
- Rocky View County
- Tanner Foundation
- TC Energy
- Teine Energy
- The Buckley Family Trust
- The Byler Foundation
- The Green Depot Fort McMurray
- The Greygates Foundation
- The Hindle Family Foundation
- The Hop Foundation
- The United Church of Canada Foundation
- The Wild Bird Store
- The Young Family Foundation
- Totem Charitable Foundation
- TransCanada Pipelines Limited
- United Farmers of Alberta University of Calgary, Committee of 10,000
- Utility Inc.
- Western Canadian Spill Service

Thank you to all our community partners!

We could not do this without you.

2025 FINANCIALS

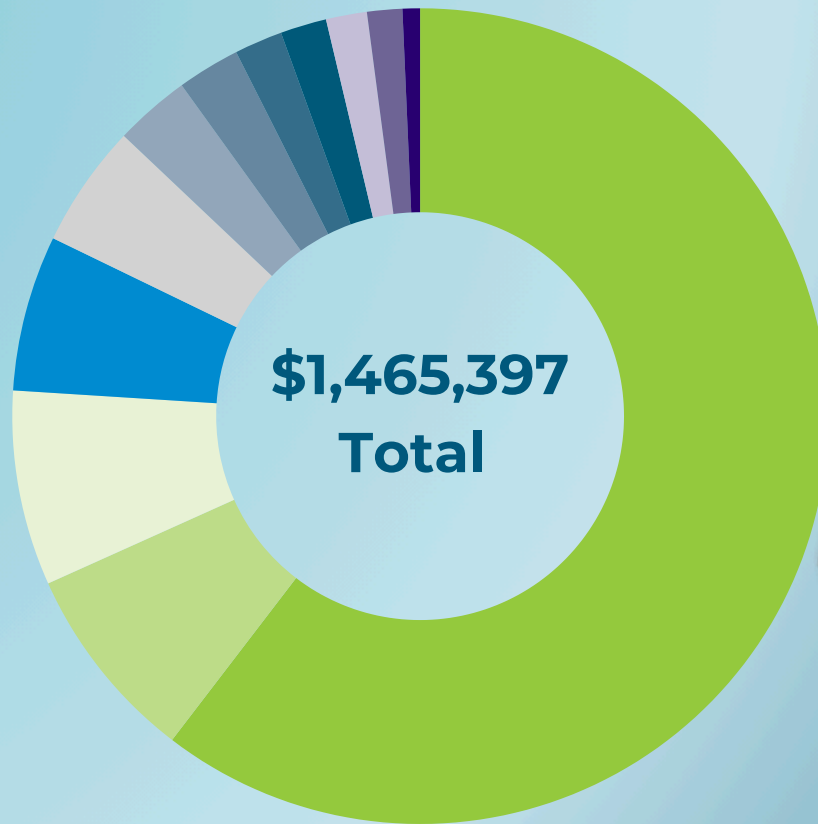
REVENUE



●	\$1,071,070	Donations
●	\$167,123	Grants
●	\$142,172	In-Kind Travel & Donations
●	\$104,474	Casino
●	\$69,219	Amortization of deferred capital contributions
●	\$29,555	Special events, sales, rebates
●	\$12,471	Training & Education
●	\$5,900	Memberships

2025 FINANCIALS

EXPENSES



- \$885,116 Salaries & Wages
- \$115,331 In-Kind Travel
- \$113,350 Office & General Supplies and Expenses
- \$90,510 Amortization
- \$71,488 Facility and Utility Expenses
- \$43,994 Fundraising
- \$36,492 Medical Services
- \$27,939 Professional Fees
- \$26,841 In-Kind
- \$23,783 Insurance
- \$20,435 Travel
- \$10,118 Training



THANK YOU

On behalf of the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation and the wildlife in our care, the Board of Directors extends our sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported, shared, and contributed to our mission of protecting and preserving Alberta's wildlife.

Your generosity is essential to our operations and to our ability to provide expert care to the animals who rely on us. We are deeply grateful for your continued support; it truly makes this work possible.

We look forward to your ongoing partnership as we continue this work in **2026** and beyond.

**DONATE
HERE**



DONATE NOW

**SUPPORT
US ON SOCIAL**



AIWC.CA