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## **New moving service for survivors of abuse is recruiting volunteers in Calgary & Edmonton this Summer**

**June 2, 2023 - Edmonton and Calgary, Alberta - Shelter Movers**

In response to a disturbing increase in gender-based violence across Alberta, [Shelter Movers](#) is launching its free moving and storage services to families fleeing abuse, starting this Summer in Calgary and Edmonton. The organization is in need of volunteers to begin delivering this life-changing, one-of-a-kind service.

Established in 2016, Shelter Movers is a national, volunteer-powered charitable organization providing moving and storage services at no cost to individuals and families fleeing abuse. With support from [Women and Gender Equality Canada](#), Shelter Movers has begun to recruit and train volunteers from all walks of life to deliver this essential service this Summer.

Shelter Movers works closely with shelters to address the substantial hurdle of moving and storing survivors' important belongings, a process often hindered by financial constraints. As a volunteer-driven organization, Shelter Movers relies on the generous support of the community to carry out its mission. To this end, the new Edmonton and Calgary chapters are actively seeking volunteers to help make moves happen.

Linette Soldan, Executive Director, Rowan House (Calgary): "To experience domestic violence and abuse is very overwhelming and stressful," says Linette Soldan, ED at Rowan House Calgary. "[It is wonderful] having Shelter Movers come in to make sure their safety is being honoured while seamlessly moving and storing their items for free until a safer home is found. Items often include important documents, sentimental belongings, and children's toys. This will just absolutely cut the barriers that survivors in Alberta are currently facing, enabling them to build upon the items they possess without having to start completely fresh."

The Hon. Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth: "I'm truly inspired by how their incredible team, who are mostly volunteers, work day in and day out to make sure that survivors of gender-based violence can move safely and quickly. I'd like to ask Canadians to consider volunteering for Shelter Movers—to strengthen your own communities and improve the quality of life of all Canadians."

The Hon. Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Tourism, Associate Minister of Finance and Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre: "As a government, we must continue to address and stop gender-based violence across Alberta and Canada. By investing in Shelter Movers, we take a crucial step towards creating a safer and more supportive environment for individuals and families in our community. Their dedicated efforts ensure that survivors of gender-based

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violence have the necessary resources and a safe place to turn to during their most vulnerable moments. The Government of Canada will continue to stand alongside experts, advocates, and survivors of gender-based violence to build a safer Canada for everyone.”

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Shelter Movers or to donate, visit [sheltermovers.com](https://sheltermovers.com) or contact [nationalvolunteerservices@sheltermovers.com](mailto:nationalvolunteerservices@sheltermovers.com)

#### **Quick Facts**

- From 2018-2022, Alberta consistently has a higher rate of women and girls killed by violence involving a male accused than the yearly national average.
- Approx. 30,000 domestic conflict and domestic violence calls are made to Calgary police each year.
- A woman or girl is killed every 2 days in our country, most often at the hands of a family member or intimate partner.
- As a volunteer-powered charity Shelter Movers has 1500 active volunteers across Canada for both on the ground help as well as administrative roles including logistics, fundraising and more.

#### **Related Links:**

- [Volunteering with Shelter Movers](#)
- [Donating to Shelter Movers' work and mission](#)

**About Shelter Movers:** Shelter Movers is a national, volunteer-powered charitable organization that provides moving and storage services at no cost to individuals and families fleeing abuse. As the only service of its kind offered in Canada, we collaborate with local businesses and community agencies to support people, primarily women and children, as they transition to a life free of violence. To date, our team of dedicated volunteers have completed more than 5,500 moves for survivors of abuse.

**For more information, please contact [media@sheltermovers.com](mailto:media@sheltermovers.com) or visit our [website](#).**