

From 1985 – 1992, The Villa North and South continued to provide addiction treatment services to women in Alberta as a funded agency of AADAC, however there is no information in The Villa’s archives during this time.

In 1985, Betty Ford was the Keynote Speaker at the 34th International Congress on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency in Calgary, hosted by AADAC. 1200 delegates from 52 countries, the United Nations, The World Health Organization, representing scientific, social and medical communities, attended the 6 day event. This event marked the 100th anniversary of the congress with 400 speakers lecturing on topics that included alcohol and addiction issues, methods of abuse and prevention, and treatment and rehabilitation.

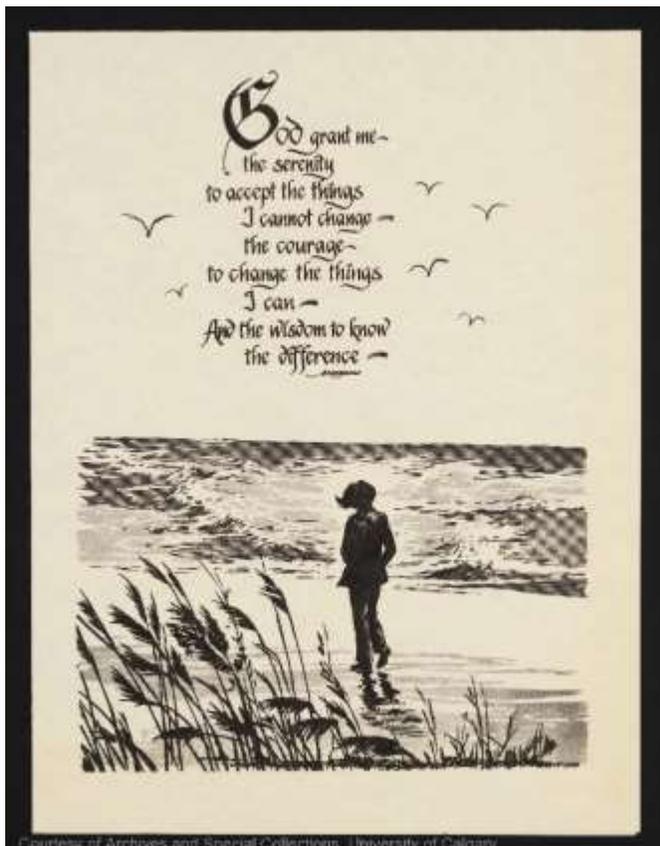
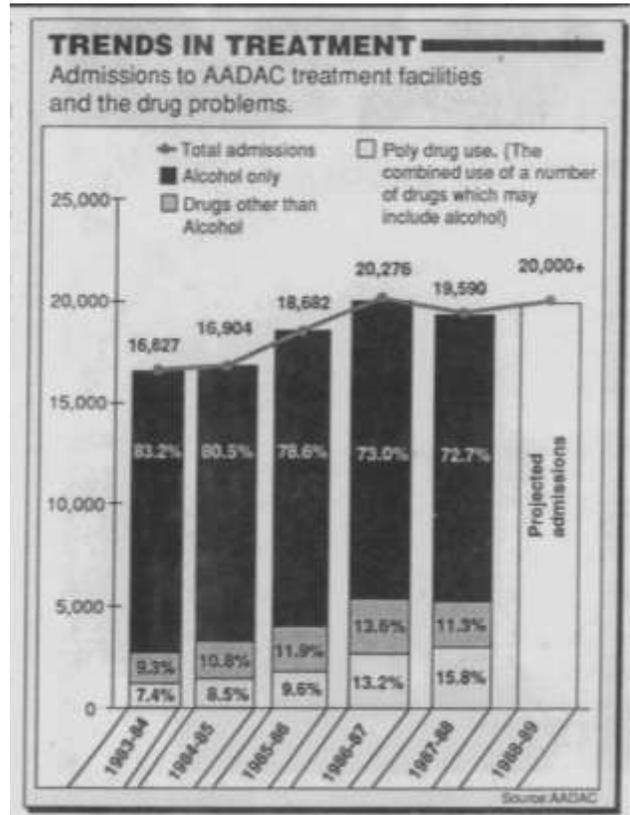
In 1986 – A relatively new population had emerged that had not been fully recognized or considered previously, called Adult Children of Alcoholics. At that time, it was estimated that 1 in 8 children in North America were born to parents with alcohol addiction, and approximately 50% of adults with alcohol addiction had they themselves grown up in a household where one or both parents had a drinking problem. New research showed that they were more likely to have physical related stress problems such as migraines and stomach ailments, and suffered from a lack of self-esteem, had trouble with intimacy and felt the need to be in control. These issues would often manifest in relationship problems and were thought to be a result of fear, isolation and alienation experienced during childhood. Some of the skills children developed as coping mechanisms, went on to restrict their ability to experience healthy relationships as adults. In addition to being at higher risk for having and addiction to alcohol as they grew up, they were also more likely to marry someone addicted to alcohol. Group support meetings were available in Calgary through Adult Children of Alcoholics, Al-Anon or church groups.

In 1988, Premier Don Getty declared a “war on drug abuse” vowing to spend hundreds of millions of Heritage Fund dollars toward his vision of the creation of the most comprehensive and effective prevention program in North America. Unfortunately, by the end of his term as Alberta Premier in 1992, the goal to create the Alberta Family Life and Drug Abuse Foundation had not been fulfilled due to economic challenges and budgetary priorities.



Calgary hosted the Winter Olympics from February 13 – 28, 1988

In 1989, Statistics provided by AADAC showed a steady rise in the admissions to treatment facilities, despite several years of government funding cuts to AADAC's budget. The Alberta government then increased AADAC's budget by \$5 million to be focused on adolescent out-patient and residential programming. Dr. Bill Campbell, a Calgary addictions specialist (who would later provide medical services to Aventa Clients from 2001 – 2012) applauded the additional youth programs, but expressed his firm hope that there would be a strategy to help all Albertans with addiction issues, as it was the province with the highest alcohol consumption rate in the country.



In 1992, The Villa hoped to recruit a volunteer to produce a public information video about women recovering from addiction. Unable to source a volunteer, and facing budgetary constraints, the project was not able to be completed. Unable to properly promote awareness, it was difficult to raise funds to expand the program to meet the demand for services.

The VLT program was officially introduced in Alberta in 1992 and some experts warned that VLTS could be the most highly addicted form of gambling.