

Provincial Coordinators Report

By Nikki Trimble

The 2011-2012 year has been one of change for the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters (MAWS) with the departure of Jen Kehler in August 2011 and my appointment in August 2011. I come to the association with a wealth of experience from the United Kingdom and as an immigrant to Canada, all of which I hope will assist MAWS in its continuing its mission dedicated to the elimination of violence against women and children through a unified voice.

MAWS has achieved so much over the years and with the change in coordinator it was an opportunity to reflect, review, refocus and to create a new strategic plan. We are grateful to the Winnipeg Foundation for providing funding to achieve this. September 2011 saw our AGM at Ledarney Manor in Teulon following our in person meeting. After the AGM we were delighted to have a couple of monologs performed by Sarasvati, the setting for these was ideal and members and guests were treated to a fabulous lunch provided by Jean Clearwater and Ann Pazdzierski our wonderful hosts.

I attended the first in person meeting of the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses in Yellowknife in September 2011. This was a wonderful opportunity for MAWS to participate in the Canadian Network and to be a member of the founding board. The National Organisation office is in Ottawa and includes representatives from ten provinces, two territories and the National Aboriginal Circle on family violence. The Yellowknife meeting brought our sisters from the north together for a parallel meeting and gave us an opportunity to meet and discuss the barriers and challenges faced by those experiencing family violence in the north. Through this unique experience I think all the delegates came away excited, inspired and ready to tackle the challenges faced on National issues that affect women's shelters in Canada.

In March a number of MAWS board members and I were able to attend the 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters in Washington DC hosted by the National Network to end Domestic Violence in the United States. One thousand six hundred delegates came from all around the world with five hundred of the delegates being sponsored to enable them to participate. The conference brought together some wonderful examples of work carried on around the world to end violence, there were lots of opportunities to select and attend workshops. The high light for many, me included was the unexpected attendance of Former President Clinton, his understanding of the issues and encouragement and support to the delegates was much appreciated. During the evening Gloria Gaynor sang her wonderful song "I will survive" and shared with the audience the story behind the song. I came away inspired and energised and a little sad, family violence is a world issue and much still needs to be done to eradicate it from society, although it is comforting to know there is so many dedicated people around the world working in their communities to end violence.

MAWS applied for renewal funding from CAPC and is pleased to report that funding has been confirmed for years 2012-2014. This secures the positions of children's workers in our shelters and adds much needed resources to this very important area of our work.

Under our Structural, strategic review we made the difficult decision to move away from our VOICES data base system and to purchase a new system WISH which will enable shelters to manage client data and files and provide the data necessary to support us in being a unified voice. The training for the data base is to take place in March / April 2012 and it is anticipated that all member shelters will be on the system by the end of 2012.

The year ended with MAWS having a clear vision of its future, members are looking forward to attending the 1st National Forum for Women's Shelters in September 2012 where there will be opportunities to network and exchange ideas with colleagues from across Canada, as well as to participate in planning for the Canadian networks future.

MAWS is excited to be planning a Breakfast for the Guys on 15th November 2012 during violence awareness month, inspired by others around the world MAWS wants to engage men in the conversation to end violence against women and children. More information to follow soon, at this time save the date.



MAWS
manitoba association of women's shelters

Registered Charitable Number
880786892RR0001

MEMBER SHELTERS

Agape House
(Eastman Crisis Centre)
Steinbach

Aurora House
(The Pas Committee for Women
in Crisis) The Pas

Genesis House
(South Central Committee on
Family Violence) Winkler

Ikwe-Widdjitiwin Winnipeg

Nova House Selkirk

**Portage Family Abuse Preven-
tion Centre** Portage la Prairie

Parkland Crisis Centre Dauphin

Thompson Crisis Centre
Thompson

**YWCA Westman
Women's Shelter** Brandon

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Alpha House Project Winnipeg

**Fort Gary Women's
Resource Centre** Winnipeg

Pluri-elles Winnipeg

Wish Inc Winnipeg

**Interlake Women's Resource
Centre** Gimli

Women's Resource Centre
Flin Flon

Chair's Report 2011-2012

By Angela Braun

The 2011-2012 has been full of change and excitement for MAWS with many new projects on the horizon. Our new coordinator Nikki Trimble brings with her a wealth of experience and different ideas that will take MAWS down roads we have not traveled before.

MAWS was able to be part of the first in person meeting of the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses in Yellowknife in September 2011. We are proud to be part of the founding board for the Canadian National Network. It also provided a wonderful introduction for Nikki to her counterparts from across Canada. This meeting provided an excellent foundation to build partnerships, share experiences, and created a platform for the collective voices of the strong women across Canada working on finding solutions to domestic violence from a national perspective.

Many of the MAWS members were able to take part in the 2nd World conference of women's shelters in February 2012. Opportunities such as this provide renewed energy to all of those in attendance knowing that they are not alone in this work; rather they have sisters around the globe working as hard as they are at ending violence against women.

We are happy that the CAPC funding has been renewed until March 31, 2014. This shared project of MAWS members provides additional support to the work shelters do with children while they are in shelter. We are grateful to the Public Health Agency of Canada for their continued support.

We are also grateful to the Winnipeg Foundation for their support of our strategic planning and leadership development within the organization. With the many changes MAWS has experienced in the past two years, as well as the economic conditions across the country, the need for planning was critical.

The coming months will continue to be exciting for MAWS as an organization. Many of the MAWS board members will be travelling to the 1st National Forum for Women's shelters in Montreal in September 2012. We also have an exciting event planned, "Breakfast with the Guys" with guest speaker Jackson Katz for mid November 2012.

I would like to express my gratitude to Nikki Trimble for her energy and her passion for the work. She has been a terrific addition to our team. I would also like to thank the other members of the MAWS board. This dedicated group of women goes to work everyday believing that we can make a difference for the families that we serve and hope that the future can be different for the children we see in shelter.

MAWS Statistics

- In the 2011-2012 Year MAWS member shelters provided 30,082 bed nights to women and their children
- MAWS member shelters provided care to 906 women and 1063 children who accessed shelter services as residential clients
- MAWS member shelters provided care to 739 women and 163 children who accessed shelter services as non residential clients
- MAWS member shelters provided care to 442 women and 104 children who accessed shelter services as follow-up clients.
- MAWS member shelters provided a total of 30,082 bed nights to women and their children
- MAWS member shelters attended to 6658 crisis line calls

Who is MAWS?

In the 1980's, women's shelters in Manitoba began to work together to provide support, training, information and improved services for clients.

The organization incorporated in 1991 as The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters. Membership now includes all nine provincially funded women's shelters. There are also several affiliate members of MAWS who work in the field of domestic violence.

MAWS members are dedicated to advancing and maintaining the well being of women and children in abusive situations.

MAWS members are the shelters themselves; each shelter chooses a designate to sit on the board of MAWS. Designates can be board members or staff. MAWS meets monthly via conference call and in person, bi-annually at a minimum.

Our Goals

- To provide a unified voice for women and children who have experienced violence.
- To unite Manitoba shelters and provide a central body to facilitate communication.
- To foster networking and information sharing among shelters and between other agencies that work to eliminate all forms of violence.
- To assist in acquiring resources for member shelters.
- To promote public education around violence against women and children.
- To promote best practices among member shelters.
- To develop and promote provincial standards for all shelters.
- To foster professional development within Manitoba shelters

MAWS Executive

Angela Braun	Chair
Anna Pazdzierski	Treasurer
Kari Prawdzik	Secretary
Nikki Trimble	Provincial Coordinator



2011 20th Anniversary AGM Teulon, Manitoba

Back row, from left to right: Ikwe-Widdjitiwin Director Marie Lands, Aurora House Director Dawna Pritchard, Provincial Coordinator Nikki Trimble and YWCA Westman Women's Shelter Director Karen Peto

Front row, from left to right: Nova House Director Anna Pazdzierski, Parkland Crisis Centre Director Kari Prawdzik, Genesis House Director Angela Braun and Agape House Director Tracie Rigby



Far left: Nan Fewchuk performing in Suffragette written by Jessy Ardern

Left: Jane Burpee performing in Eleanor Roosevelt written by Ginny Collins

We would like to thank Sarasvati Productions for their wonderful performance at our 2011 AGM. Ledarney Manor, Teulon was a wonderful setting for our AGM and the performances.



Second World Conference of Women's Shelters Washington DC, USA

Five shelter directors, the Provincial Coordinator and two shelter board members attended the conference along with 1600 delegates. It was a wonderful opportunity to network and learn from other professionals from around the world.



Clockwise from top left: Former President Bill Clinton addressing the conference, Parkland Crisis Centre Director Kari Prawdzik, Portage Family Abuse Prevention Centre Director Joyce Schrader and Agape House Director Tracie Rigby, Singer-Songwriter Gloria Gaynor performing "I Will Survive"

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

Provincial CAPC

CAPC stands for "Community Action Program for children" and is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. CAPC recognizes that communities are able to identify and respond to the needs of their children and so each project has been developed to meet the needs of their community. There are fourteen CAPC projects in Manitoba, all sharing the same goal: To enhance the well being of children, aged 0-6, living in conditions of risk.

Provincial CAPC Program 11/12 Outcomes

Counselling/Support Groups

- 763 counselling sessions were provided to 546 children
- 1059 children were provided with support groups
- 90% of caregivers reported the program helped their children understand how to be safe
- 90% of caregivers reported the program helped their children learn how to safety plan

Play Groups

- 2179 play group sessions were attended by 1098 children
- 91% Caregivers reported the space used for playgroups to be good or excellent
- 95% reported good or excellent satisfaction with toys/activities provided
- 93% reported the staff to be helpful

Parenting Programs

- 585 parenting sessions were provided to 347 caregivers
- 1041 counselling sessions were provided to 591 women clients
- 90% reported learning a lot about safety planning
- 90% reported learning about the correlation between addictions and violence
- 95% reported learning about Healthy relationships
- 95% reported learning about resources in the community outside of shelter.



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de santé
publique du Canada

THANK YOU

The Public Health Agency of Canada for their financial contribution and endless support and assistance.

The Winnipeg Foundation - for funding our strategic review, fund development strategy and ongoing operational support.

To our anonymous funder, without whose operational support, we could not have done all we have done.

The Manitoba Government, Family violence Prevention Program, for their continued support to our members.

To all the organisations and individuals who have arranged fundraising events, and donated goods and services throughout the year.

To our membership who make all we do possible.