



MANITOBA ASSOCIATION  
OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

# **Annual Report 2016-2017**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

## CHAIR REPORT 2016-2017

This has been a year of both reflection and action for MAWS members. The United Nations estimates "that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and or intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their lives. However, some national studies show that up to 70% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime." (unwomen.org) There is a lot of work still to do to move the yardstick and a renewed sense of urgency among MAWS members to generate the groundswell within all corners of society to do it.

Over this past year MAWS has collaborated with the Family Violence Prevention Program and other family violence service providers to inform a transformation plan for family violence service delivery in Manitoba. MAWS is working closely with Employment and Income Assistance, Manitoba Housing and Child and Family Services to remove barriers that prevent access to the right services at the right time in the right way for women and children. An exciting part of the transformation plan is an acknowledgement that services that support behaviour change for perpetrators is an essential element of ending the violence.

Another exciting and transformative event was the opening of the new shelter facility at Nova House, the first facility custom designed for shelter use. It sets a benchmark standard for the space, functionality and dignity it offers the women and children it serves and the staff who provide the service. Congratulations!

MAWS members have shown the strength and resiliency of their organizations; from their journey back from tragedy to their creativity in managing to keep their doors open despite growing resource shortages. We deeply recognize, however, that we cannot do this work alone. Family violence is a central issue that tears at our social fabric. We cannot continue to provide the services that are required by today's families without renewed commitment by funders, partners and community members.

May we find our path forward together.

Meegwetch,

Lesley Lindberg, Chair

Staff and Board members are working hard to maintain this...



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## PROVINCIAL COORDINATORS REPORT 2016-2017

*By Deena Brock*

Women's shelters were set up in Canada as a temporary solution for women who experienced domestic violence and needed safe accommodation; now they are the primary response. Shelters have evolved and in addition to safe accommodations survivors receive programming delivered by domestic violence professionals who advocate and work closely to help survivors succeed. Shelter workers have increasingly become aware that survivors are exhibiting more complex situations in addition to domestic violence. Judith Hughes Ph.D., and Sid Frankel Ph.D., from the University of Manitoba are working with MAWS to conduct research to understand the changing needs and complexity in women's situations and how these increasingly complex situations impact shelter practices and the safety of workers and clients in Manitoba shelters. The results will provide concrete evidence and confirmation that client needs and the risks are changing. This information will guide shelters and domestic violence agencies to enhance and expand current programming and procedures. This data will help support our appeals to the provincial government to increase training and develop specialized services and funding to enlarge staff numbers.

The Manitoba Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (MDVDRC) now benefits from the expertise of two shelter Executive Directors who are appointed to this committee. MDVDRC was created to examine domestic violence homicides that are no longer before the courts. The review committee works under the objective to identify trends, risk factors, and systemic concerns then recommending changes to prevent future domestic violence events. MDVDRC goes beyond a mere review of the case; instead, conducting interviews of victims' families, friends, and co-workers who are willing to share information about established patterns and trends associated with domestic violence homicides. Plus reviews of the history, conduct, and circumstances of perpetrators.

The Manitoba Community Services Council granted funds to update our technology hardware, software, marketing tools and funding for a new website. Additionally we have received many donations often anonymous but we want to acknowledge the Kinette Club of Winnipeg, All Charities Campaign, and Waverly Tenants Association, RiverBend Movers, Take Care Everyone, and so many individuals who understand the need to maintain this organization to support shelters to continue their valuable work.

## CONTINUED, PROVINCIAL COORDINATORS REPORT

MAWS has been accepted as a registered charity to receive donations from Donate a Car Canada. If you or someone you know has a vehicle that needs to be disposed of consider donating the proceeds to MAWS, go to <http://donatecar.ca/> and search charities to find us.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has renewed the Expansion and Enhancement of Children’s Programs contract (CAPC) for 2017-2020 term. This program contributes much needed funding for shelters to help maintain children’s programming by contributing funds to hire staff and provide some training and materials for the program.

Help me thank the Executive Directors and staff at all the shelters and domestic violence agencies across Manitoba. They tirelessly perform their duties often unrecognized for the work they do. Visit [www.maws.mb.ca](http://www.maws.mb.ca) to learn more about Manitoba shelters, sign up for our blog and visit us on Facebook and Twitter—@mawsmanitoba.

*“There are women who go back to their spouses when their time is up because it’s a toss up between homelessness and having a roof over your head. No women should be put in a situation where they have nowhere else to turn but possible death from a spouse.”*

*—Shelter user and abuse survivor from Shelter Voices 2017*

## MAWS 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 communications
- 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

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## MANITOBA SHELTER STATISTICS

In Manitoba the emergency domestic violence shelters are funded by Manitoba Family Violence Prevention program. Data from this summary came from these shelters: Agape House— Steinbach, Aurora House— The Pas, Genesis House— Winkler, Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin—Winnipeg, Nova House—Selkirk, Parkland Crisis Centre—Dauphin, Portage Family Abuse Prevention Centre—Portage la Prairie, Thompson Crisis Centre—Thompson, Willow Place—Winnipeg, YWCA Westman Women's Shelter—Brandon and Men's Resource Centre—Winnipeg.

- In the 2016—2017 fiscal year shelters provided 39,637 bednights up from last years 36,792 bednights provided to adults and their children.
- Shelters provided care to 1380 adults up from last year total 1229 of and 1440 children up from 1169 who accessed shelter services as residential clients,
- Of these clients, the average stay was 11.1 nights up from last year of 9.1 nights and clients attended an average of 11 counselling sessions compared to 7 sessions last year,
- Of the residential clients 59 adults and 105 children resided after leaving shelter in
- \*Interim Housing units provided a total of 11,337 bednights,
- Shelters provided counselling to 327 adults up from 315 adults last year and 63 children up from 47 children who accessed services as non residential clients,
- Shelters provided care to 270 adults down from 313 adults last year and 40 children up from 23 children who accessed services as follow-up clients,
- Shelters attended to 12,310 crisis line calls down from last years total of 12,737 calls.

*Notes: \*6 shelters have Interim Housing*

*Data provided by FVPP (Family Violence Prevention Program)*



Faceless Dolls collection by Nova House in Selkirk, these dolls were designed by relatives and friends in remembrance of those who have gone missing.

NWAC created this hands-on project to help bring awareness while physically creating a representation of the missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

## REPORT FROM WOMEN'S SHELTERS CANADA (WSC)

*By Lise Martin, Executive Director WSC*

2016-17 was a turning point year for WSC. This fourth year was one of growth and change. We changed our name to Women's Shelters Canada (WSC). Our staff doubled from two to four, allowing us to expand our reach and our capacity to serve as a connector on multiple levels. This included the opportunity for me to attend the spring MAWS meeting where it was such a pleasure to meet most members.

We are excited to be hosting our first national shelter conference in Ottawa in June 2018. By engaging in active peer-to-peer learning, this will be an opportunity for shelters across the country to share their challenges and successes.

Part of our work is also to ensure that the perspectives of shelters is represented at the federal level. In June 2016, the Minister for the Status of Women created an Advisory Council to guide the development and implementation of the federal government's Gender-Based Violence Strategy and appointed WSC's Executive Director as a member. WSC also presented a brief in anticipation of the National Housing Strategy underlining the importance of connecting the gender-based violence strategy, the national housing strategy and the poverty reduction strategy.

In July 2016 we received a three year grant from Status of Women Canada which will allow us to develop a national profile of shelters. The profile will be a *State of Shelters in Canada* covering a range of issues from bricks and mortar to human resources to the extent of services provided to name a few. Surprisingly this will be a first and will be instrumental in moving shelters forward. The profile will also be our starting point for a national conversation on shelters of the future. We look forward to having this conversation with shelters in Manitoba.

I thank all the Manitoba shelters who are doing incredible work in often challenging environments. We thank you for sharing your knowledge and expertise, which allows us to continue to create and develop connections to one another in our efforts to address violence against women.

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## MEMBER SHELTERS

AGAPE HOUSE (Eastman Crisis Centre) - Steinbach, MB  
204-326.6062

AURORA HOUSE (The Pas Committee for Women in Crisis) - The Pas, MB 204.623.7427

GENESIS HOUSE (South Central Committee on Family Violence) Winkler, MB 204.325.9957

IKWE-WIDDJIITIWIN—Winnipeg, MB 204.987.2780

NOVA HOUSE—Selkirk, MB  
204.482.7882

PARKLAND CRISIS CENTRE  
Dauphin, MB 204.622.4626

PORTAGE FAMILY ABUSE PREVENTION CENTRE—Portage la Prairie, MB 204.239.5234

THOMPSON CRISIS CENTRE  
Thompson, MB 204.677.9668

WILLOW PLACE—Winnipeg, MB  
204.615.0313

YWCA WESTMAN WOMEN'S SHELTER— Brandon, MB  
204.727.3644

## AFFILIATE MEMBERS

### Second Stage Programs

ALPHA HOUSE INC.  
Winnipeg, MB 204.982.2011

BRAVESTONE CENTRE INC.  
Winnipeg, MB 204.275.2600

### Resource Centres & Services

CIRCLING BUFFALO—The Pas, MB 204.623.3423

FORT GARRY WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE— Winnipeg, MB 204.477.1123

INTERLAKE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE— Gimli, MB  
204.642.8264

LAKESHORE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE—Ashern, MB  
204.768.3016

SWAN VALLEY CRISIS CENTRE  
Swan River, MB 204.734.9368

WOMEN'S SAFE HAVEN/  
RESOURCE SERVICE— Flin Flon, MB 204.681.3105

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

The work of our members is often done quietly, involving numerous hours and dedication. As a secondary witness to the clients victimization, staff working at shelters and all domestic violence agencies can suffer vicarious trauma. They can be on the receiving end of verbal and physical abuse from the distraught clients. It's a demanding and often frustrating job but rewarding, knowing that they are helping clients and their children through crisis and make positive change in their lives.

*Did you know that the bar codes on your airline boarding pass contains all your personal and flight, past and present information? Identity thieves have the technology to read the bar codes that include your credit card information. Be sure to destroy the bar code on your old boarding passes before you throw them away and notify the credit card company when you travel.*

Independent Auditor's Report conducted by Stefanson Lee Romaniuk Chartered Accountants. "In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters Inc. as at March 31, 2017 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations."

**THE MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS INC.**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and Changes in Net Assets**  
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2017**

	Operating Fund 2017	CAPC Fund 2017	Total 2017	Total 2016
<b>Revenue</b>				
Public Health Agency of Canada	\$ -	\$ 222,580	\$ 222,580	\$ 222,947
Memberships	7,700	-	7,700	7,600
Grants	2,539	-	2,539	4,135
Interest income	210	367	577	750
Donations	12,480	-	12,480	1,328
	22,929	222,947	245,876	236,760
<b>Expenses</b>				
Events and seminars	449	-	449	99
Shelter supplies grants	-	9,000	9,000	10,809
Shelter operating grants	-	178,434	178,434	178,434
Standards Manual Development	1,885	-	1,885	4,135
Meetings	11,201	-	11,201	10,495
Membership	575	1,500	2,075	2,025
Office	757	1,809	2,566	1,254
Professional fees	808	2,000	2,808	2,825
Personnel	12,496	23,204	35,700	30,293
Shelter training grants	-	4,500	4,500	4,500
Travel and training	150	2,500	2,650	3,361
	28,321	222,947	251,268	248,230
<b>Net deficiency of revenue over expenses</b>	(5,392)	-	(5,392)	(11,470)
Net assets - beginning of year	16,193	1,026	17,219	28,689
Administration allocation to CAPC	1,480	(1,480)	-	-
<b>Net assets - end of year</b>	\$ 12,281	\$ (454)	\$ 11,827	\$ 17,219

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## PROVINCIAL CAPC REPORT

CAPC (Community Action Program for Children) is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. PHAC recognizes that communities are better equipped to identify and respond to the needs of their children so each project has been developed to meet the needs in that community. There are fourteen CAPC projects in Manitoba, all sharing the same goal: to enhance the well being of children aged 0—6 years old, living in conditions of risk.

### Provincial CAPC Project 2016/17 Outcomes

During 2016/17 shelters reached 841 families who had children between the ages of 0-6 years old, up from last year of 825 families

- 80% of the families are considered to be low income,
- Approximately 67% of families has at least one teenage parent,
- 54% of the families have children experiencing developmental delays or social, emotional or behavioural problems,
- 59% of the children have been abused or neglected,
- 31% are families of recent immigrants or refugees.

### Playgroups

3057 children and caregivers attended 1489 playgroups

### Counselling / Support Groups

478 Counselling sessions were provided to 238 children and 684 children attended 332 support groups

### Parenting Programs

287 parenting sessions were provided to 464 caregivers and 843 counselling sessions were provided to 365 parents

### Referrals

2108 referrals were made to benefit mothers and children

### Advocacy

Shelter staff intervened 2020 times to advocate for mothers and children

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAM WORKERS

Loaned/in kind staff refers to an employee of a partner organization who is paid by their employer or someone who provides services as part of a requirement for a student or professional practicum and contributes in a meaningful way to the activities of the children's program. Last year shelters reported that they relied on an additional 17,984 staff hours at no or minimal expense to the shelter to assist with the children's programs. These hours do not include volunteer hours. The in-kind staff worked as Children's Counsellors and Children's Activity Workers. The additional help is very much needed but also puts a strain on the shelter's Children's Counsellor who has to train and supervise these helpers. Having a properly funded children's program would allow the shelters to provide better support to the children and their parent. Participants benefit by learning how to understand and heal from the trauma of the violence, learning about proper behaviour at home and in a daycare setting and how to deal with their feelings. Additional staff would also provide parental counselling that the shelters find is extremely beneficial to parents and their children.

Manitoba has a very high rate of domestic violence (compared to other provinces) and children exposed to domestic violence are proven to more likely have developmental social and mental health issues. The shelters children's program is desperately underfunded making it difficult to handle the demand. Additionally there is a real need for better access to child/adolescent mental health professionals, and affordable resources for children with cognitive learning deficits, especially in the rural areas.

*Under the Canadian Centre for Child Protection the Intimate Image Protection Act came into effect January 19 2016. Revenge porn allows victims under this act to contact the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and they will provide instruction on how to remove pictures from online sites. They will assist youth with the process and can assist with getting police involved. Victims can now sue the perpetrator in civil court resulting in fines for damages plus any money they may have made from the pictures. Adults can find removal instructions for revenge porn on the CCRI – Centre for Civil Rights Initiative website.*



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé  
publique du Canada



MANITOBA COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL INC.

Thanks to:

The **Public Health Agency of Canada** for financial contribution to the CAPC program. The **Manitoba Government**—Family Violence and Prevention Program (FVPP) for financial contribution to the DV agencies and support. To Manitoba Community Services Council Inc. and to all the **organizations** who have arranged fundraising events, donated goods and financial contributions throughout the year: Melinda Ives of Discovery Toys for Easter & Christmas Baskets, Shoebox Campaign - Christmas box, Chatters Salons (Used hair appliances for clients), Waverly Tenants Association, All Charities Campaign, Kinette Club of Winnipeg.

A special thanks to the many **individuals** who donate clothing, toiletries, and cash. To the MAWS **members** who support our efforts.