



MANITOBA ASSOCIATION
OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Annual Report 2018-2019

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CO-CHAIR REPORT 2018-2019

As I reflect over the time as an Executive Director of a women's shelter in Manitoba for 15 years, I cannot help but notice the changes that have evolved since the initial shelter movement in the 70s and 80s. Women's shelters began as a grassroots movement and quickly became well established. The ten shelters in Manitoba evolved into a cohesive unit with the formation of Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters (MAWS) – providing a means of bringing peer support, round table discussions of challenges – external and internal - facing shelters, the sharing of information of practices and policies for Executive Directors throughout the Province.

Executive Directors are like magicians – capably running a 24/7, 365-day crisis phone line and residential centre, together with a myriad of other programs. The Province of Manitoba has provided funding to shelters that assists with staffing and other costs associated with running a shelter. MAWS was successful in obtaining a federal grant that is now in its 24th year, to supplement costs for children's programs. EDs are masters at raising awareness of violence against women and children, promoting the work of shelters, garnering additional funding through fundraising efforts to enhance shelter services and maintain the necessary staffing model and operating costs to ensure consistent programming. The current funding model has not changed for over a decade. Shelters are struggling to maintain qualified, skilled staff to meet the new challenges.

Change has occurred subtly over the years, and today it has become readily apparent – women are presenting with more complex needs, namely: co-occurring disorders with severe addictions and mental health issues. Homelessness and couch surfing is prevalent. Agencies in our communities are desperate to assist their clients but, most notably in the rural regions have little or no resources to refer to. There is an increased demand on women's shelters to fill the gaps. The current staffing model of shelters does not aptly prepare shelters for the increase in complexity of women's issues who enter the shelter to flee violence/abuse and for reasons not directly related to safety. The established long-time mandate of women's shelters – to provide safety to women and children fleeing intimate partner abuse and related forms of violence/abuse is in question.

It has become a very critical time for women's shelters. EDs are facing increased stress and pressure to meet many new demands. A transformation of thinking is required by all sectors to ensure that ED voices are heard, that women's shelters be put back in the limelight in a renewed grassroots' movement to meet today's challenges – to bring increased awareness overall in the Province of current trends, to being valued and respected by all sectors for the work done, and to know they are supported in real terms.

Women's issues require a cohesive response from all sectors – that truly reflect a positive understanding and respect for women's concerns and status.

The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters will continue to be the backbone of all the shelters in Manitoba and will continue to provide advocacy and supports to its members and ultimately to the women seeking services in the provincial shelters.

*Joyce Schrader - Portage Family Abuse Prevention Centre
Co-Chair*

MANITOBA FAMILY VIOLENCE SHELTER STATISTICS

The family violence shelters are funded by the Manitoba Provincial Government and the following are statistics provided for 2018 – 2019 accumulated from Agape House, Aurora House, Genesis House, Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin, Nova House, Parkland Crisis Centre, Portage Family Abuse Prevention Centre, Thompson Crisis Centre, Willow Place and YWCA Westman Women's Shelter.

Statistics are used to validate the work that shelters provide and justify the needs of women and children who are fleeing violence. What it doesn't tell you is the depth of despair that surrounds the survivors fleeing; it doesn't reflect the pain and fear experienced. The other missing piece is the effort involved in shopping for and preparing meals for the 2,645 survivors who stayed at the shelters for up to 90 days or the number of beds made or the volume of laundry. Lastly it doesn't tell you the number of tears dried and hugs provided, free of charge by the dedicated staff.

16,792 crisis line calls relating to domestic and family violence.

39,742 bednights provided to adults and their children.

1,451 adults and 1,194 children accessed safe shelter and programming as residential clients.

The average length stay in shelter was 11 nights.

Of the residential clients 31 adults and 69 children continued to receive services and shelter by residing in Interim Housing* units after leaving shelter for an additional total of 9,289 bednights.

329 adults and 56 children accessed Non-Residential programming.

222 adults and 86 children accessed Follow-Up programming.

11,825 counselling sessions were provided.

*Notes: *6 shelters provide Interim Housing*

Data provided by FVPP (Family Violence Prevention Program)

The staff and volunteers work tirelessly, often unrecognized are working to assist survivors of domestic and family violence. Please visit www.maws.mb.ca to learn more about Manitoba shelters, sign up for our blog and visit us on Facebook and Twitter—@mawsmanitoba.

"We all like to think that if we were the victims of domestic abuse we'd up and leave - but it's not always as easy or straightforward as that. Women stay with abusive partners for all kinds of reasons - they love them, they fear them, they have children with them, they believe they can change them or they simply have no where else to go."

~ Kate Thornton

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PROVINCIAL COORDINATORS REPORT 2018-2019

By Deena Brock

The exciting news is that our grant application was selected by the Department for Women and Gender Equity (WAGE) formerly Status of Women Canada. This is a four year capacity building grant to work on addressing the existing policies, programs and services related to domestic violence prevention and intervention with the goal of obtaining the best possible outcomes for clients in need and for the service delivery workers. The project will look at three main objectives: 1) Strong governance for non-profits boards to enhance their capacity within the DV system to be supportive, responsible, informed and understanding of their leadership role while working with a respectful model. 2) Central Support to develop the organizational capacity of MAWS to assume a broader role in supporting the transformational shift the sector is currently undergoing. 3) Systems Planning to establish a provincial structure to support collaborative, integrated system planning at a provincial level. This level of planning will allow for regional plans to be developed and common policy and system issues to be identified and solved. The traditional role of shelters has changed and new evidence with informed service models are emerging. Understanding that shelters and agencies are now called upon to recognize gender and cultural diversity and use strength based, trauma informed responses means that a supportive framework needs to be set in place that will oversee and address all the needs of clients and staff in the domestic and family violence field.

Shelter services in Manitoba have been inherently confidential due to the safety risks experienced by victims of domestic and family violence. Perhaps in some ways that's why it's been difficult to get the message out that domestic violence does still exist and it's still predominately males who inflict violence upon females. Despite years of work by thousands of dedicated workers and volunteers, nothing has changed, it's still happening at an alarming and sometimes fatal rate. Statistical data is one way to paint a picture of the women and children and through the generous assistance from the University of Manitoba under the capable hands of Judith Hughes, Sid Frankel, Cathy Rocke, Diane Hiebert-Murphy and Isabelle Cote they have put together a report based on aggregate data from women who have used shelter services in Manitoba over an extended timeframe. We would like to thank Judith Hughes for taking on this project and to view the report visit www.maws.mb.ca under "News".

Through the generous support of the Assiniboine Credit Union MAWS has a new website located on the same URL www.maws.mb.ca but it has a new look and feel in an effort to provide better access through mobile devices and a more user friendly approach to quickly finding and viewing information. Please visit the website.

This past year has been a time of change once again within the shelter sector. This sector often sees a lot of turnover in staff and not just with the operational staff. The shelters are run by a non-profit volunteer Board of Directors who have only one employee the Executive Director (ED). During 2018/2019 Willow Place said goodbye to Lesley Lindberg who was instrumental in setting up a new shelter in Winnipeg called Willow Place. Lesley left Willow Place in good hands when Marcie Wood took over; Marcie has been a valuable asset to the MAWS board with her many years of experience in the domestic and family violence sector. The YWCA Brandon/Westman Women's Shelter said farewell to their long term ED Karen Peto who retired last spring. We are welcoming the new ED Heather Symbalistry who has a big job with this position managing both the shelter and YWCA Brandon. Lastly Ikwe Widdjiitiwin has also hired a new ED. We'd like to welcome back Kim Fontaine who previously worked at Ikwe. They say change is hard but it's a constant in this sector and something that the ED's deal with daily. The diversity of skills and knowledge required to run a shelter is almost endless. Shelters exist to address the needs of the victims of domestic and family violence. I commend the women who manage to juggle so much to help the women and children who need safe shelter and programming.

REPORT FROM WOMEN'S SHELTERS CANADA(WSC)



On May 2nd and 3rd WSC hosted a National Conversation on Shelters in the Future. Close to 50 participants attended with most from VAW shelters, several partners including DAWN Canada, the National Aboriginal Circle against Family Violence, Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario and Springtides were also in attendance. This was an opportunity to present the report on VAW shelters and to discuss how to make use of it in our work, from advocacy to raising public awareness.

Minister Monsef hosted a lunch time reception that included a ceremony to recognize and honour the women involved in opening Canada's first shelters 46 years ago. This was integrated into the National Conversation on Shelters in the Future event's program with the women being recognized speaking at the event for the presentation of the report.

On May 1, the Standing Committee on the Status of Women tabled its report on the systems of shelters and transition houses serving women and children affected by violence. WSC made a presentation to the standing committee and created a blog on each of the sessions specific to this study. One of the recommendations in the report is that: "the Government of Canada, in collaboration with provinces and territories, continue its efforts to create a national action plan on gender-based violence and consider including access to shelters and transitional houses and to safe and affordable housing in this action plan."

WSC has received funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to do a 14-month research study specifically on second stage shelters. The study will include a literature review, a national survey, visits and interviews at five second stage shelters (fall 2019 and winter 2020) and a national focus group and community of practise (February 2020).

On International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (May 17th) the report from the Community of Practise on supporting transgender women in VAW shelters was released. The report includes a series of case studies from some of the participating shelters and a video was also produced.

WSC held the third and final Community of Practise on Navigating Immigration Systems and Access to Services with Immigrant and Refugee Survivors of VAW was held in Ottawa on May 29th and 30th. In total there were 17 participants. The session brought together a larger group (compared to the previous two COP) and had simultaneous translation thanks to the Victim Awareness Week grant. A report is being prepared and will be released in September.

On June 27th, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence released her final report from her visit to Canada in April 2018. The report includes a number of recommendations that will be extremely useful in our advocacy work for a National Action Plan on Violence against Women. WSC was part of a press conference along with FAFIA, NAWL and Dr. Pam Palmater speaking to the release of the report.

Three staff members will be attending the 4th Global Shelter Conference of VAW shelters in Taiwan November 2019. Through funding from the Leacross Foundation it is the first time that WSC staff will be able to participate in these conferences. WSC staff will be presenting the results of their survey of shelters and will be hosting a networking dinner for shelter associations globally.

A video produced for sheltersfe.ca / hebergementfemmes.ca was produced and launched on March 8th with an English and French version. To learn more about WSC please visit <https://endvaw.ca/home/>.

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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

ELMWOOD COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE - Elmwood,
MB 204.982.1720

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

INTERLAKE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE— Gimli, MB
204.642.8264

SURVIVOR'S HOPE CRISIS CENTRE - Pinawa, MB
204.753.5353

SWAN VALLEY CRISIS CENTRE
Swan River, MB 204.734.9368

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

YWCA THOMPSON, Thompson,
MB 204.778.6341

*"I did not know that the first step in any domestic violence relationship is to seduce and charm the victim. I also did not know that the second step is to isolate the victim. The next step in the domestic violence pattern is to introduce the threat of violence and see how she reacts. We victims know something you [non-victims] usually don't. It's incredibly dangerous to leave an abuser, because the final step in the domestic violence pattern is to 'kill her'. Over 70% of domestic violence murders happens after the victim has ended the relationship."
~ Leslie Morgan Steiner*

...And that's why the work of our members and everyone else working in the field of domestic and family violence is so important. It could save someone's life!

Grant Thornton Independent Auditors Report

"In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of organization as at March 31, 2019, and the results of operations and its cashflows 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 Operations and Changes in Net Assets For the Year Ended March 31, 2019

	Operating Fund 2019	CAPC Fund 2019	Total 2019	Total 2018
Revenue				
Public Health Agency of Canada	\$ -	\$ 222,947	\$ 222,947	\$ 222,947
Memberships	7,700	-	7,700	7,800
Grants	18,193	-	18,193	10,000
Interest income	398	1,681	2,079	1,434
Donations	6,351	-	6,351	4,322
Special events and reimbursements	5,594	-	5,594	7,939
	<u>38,236</u>	<u>224,628</u>	<u>262,864</u>	<u>254,442</u>
Expenses				
Events and seminars	125	-	125	2,997
Shelter supplies grants	-	9,000	9,000	9,000
Shelter operating grants	-	178,434	178,434	178,434
Standards Manual Development	-	-	-	360
Meetings	15,879	-	15,879	6,519
Membership	1,050	-	1,050	775
Office	4,994	1,909	6,903	4,997
Professional fees	1,240	2,000	3,240	4,031
Personnel	22,637	23,204	45,841	34,642
Shelter training grants	-	4,500	4,500	4,500
Travel and training	867	3,900	4,767	5,268
	<u>46,792</u>	<u>222,947</u>	<u>269,739</u>	<u>251,523</u>
Net excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(8,556)	1,681	(6,875)	2,919
Net assets - beginning of year	<u>15,200</u>	<u>(454)</u>	<u>14,746</u>	<u>11,827</u>
Net assets - end of year	\$ <u>6,644</u>	\$ <u>1,227</u>	\$ <u>7,871</u>	\$ <u>14,746</u>

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Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) REPORT

Last November was the 25th anniversary of Community Action Program for Children, a program funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). PHAC has been providing funding to community groups that promote the healthy development of young children from birth to age 6 since 1993. There are 415 CAPC projects serving over 223,000 vulnerable children and parents/caregivers in over 3,000 communities across Canada each year. MAWS became one of these organizations in 1995 and we have been fortunate to continue to support shelters in their critical work with young children and caregivers ever since.

Provincial CAPC Project 2018/19 Outcomes

During 2018/19 shelters reached out to 1096 families who had children between the ages of 0-6 years old. These families contained 1096 women and men and 1200 children.

Playgroups

2032 children and caregivers attended 903 playgroups

Counselling / Support Groups

389 Counselling sessions were provided to 245 children and 355 support groups were conducted with a total of 725 children attended

Parenting Programs

805 counselling sessions were provided to 316 parents and 490 parental support groups were provided to 869 caregivers

Referrals

1032 referrals were made to benefit mothers and children

Advocacy

Shelter staff intervened 262 times to advocate for mothers and children

Providing Easter Baskets to families in every shelter. Thank you Melinda Ives and Discovery Toys



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada



Status of Women
Canada

Condition féminine
Canada



MANITOBA COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL INC.



Thank you to the University of Manitoba who worked with MAWS to conduct research on women using shelter service in Manitoba - the report can be found on www.maws.mb.ca

Throughout the year many groups, companies and other organizations have generously arranged fundraising events, donated goods and financial contributions for both MAWS and the shelters that has helped made many lives more bearable. A special thanks for the tremendous effort by Melinda *ves of %iscovery Toys for &aster and \$hristmas #askets and to the ShoeboY 1roKect, these efforts make a big difference for the women and children that are forced to stay in shelter.

Thanks also goes to the many **individuals** who donated a vehicle through %onate a \$ar (donatecar.ca) or generously contributed through \$anada)elps.ca, United Way, All \$harities \$ampaign, 1aypal (iving 'und or Kust remembered to put a cheRue in the mail.