



**2021-2022**

**MANITOBA ASSOCIATION  
OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



*The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters (MAWS) carries out its work on the original lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Assiniboine, Dakota and Dene Peoples and the homeland of the Métis Nation.*

*We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and present, and we dedicate ourselves to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.*



## About Us

In the 1980s, family violence (FV) shelters across Manitoba began to work together to provide support, training and information for improved services for those affected by gender-based violence (GBV).

The organization incorporated in 1991 as the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters (MAWS). Membership now includes all ten provincially funded FV shelters in Manitoba, as well as associate members of MAWS who work in the GBV prevention sector.

## MAWS Beliefs & Goals

### Our Beliefs:

- Everyone has the right to live violence-free.
- Gender-based, family and domestic violence exist because of inequalities in society.
- Community involvement is essential to address the issue of violence against women and children.
- A network of service providers, in addition to the legal, social, and political structures, is necessary to address violence against women and children.
- Public education is key to addressing issues of violence.
- We can make a difference.

### Our Goals:

- To unite Manitoba shelters and provide a central body to facilitate communication.
- To provide a unified voice for those affected by violence.
- 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 encourage the assistance of other service agencies, voluntary organizations, private industry, and government in addressing issues of violence against women and children.
- To promote public education around family, domestic and gender-based violence.
- To identify and promote best practices among member shelters.
- To develop and promote provincial standards for all Manitoba shelters.
- To foster professional development within Manitoba shelters.



# Our Values & Guiding Principles

## Principles of Harm Reduction

*Values + Beliefs that underpin Harm Reduction:*

- **Strengths Based:** Focusing on strengths first and foremost, while acknowledging that there are areas of improvement.
- **Empowerment:** Affirming and supporting those who experience violence where they are at.
- **Dignity and Compassion:** Allowing those who experience violence to feel that their needs are met without judgment.

## Principles of Trauma Informed Practice

*Values + Beliefs that underpin Trauma Informed Practice:*

- **Safety:** Includes cultural safety and trauma safety.
- **Trust:** Developing relationships that foster trust.
- **Collaboration:** The belief that those who experience violence are experts in their own lives.
- **Empowerment:** Affirming where those who experience violence are at, and empowering them to make decisions for their own lives.

## Principles of Intersectional Feminist Practice

*Values + Beliefs that underpin Intersectional Feminism:*

- Ensure that services meet the unique needs of those who experience violence and are reflective of their lived experience.
- Acknowledge the multiple identities of service users beyond that of "victim."
- That the work of MAWS is to challenge patriarchal structures and misogyny.

## Principles of Decolonization

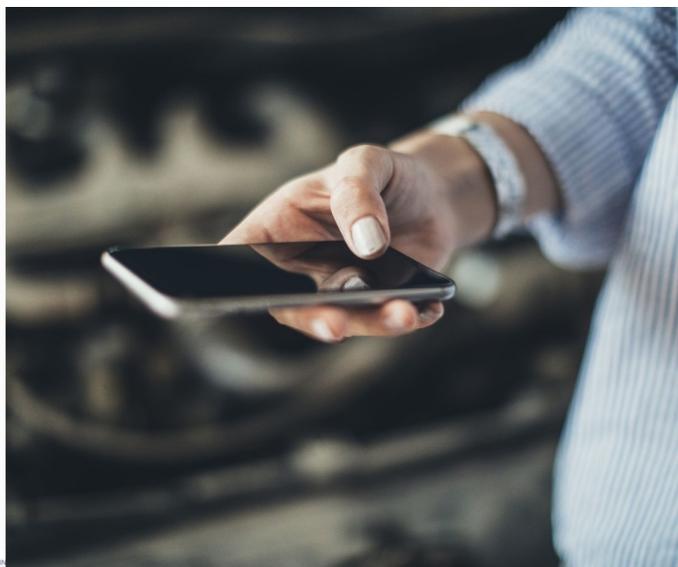
*Values + Beliefs that underpin Decolonized practice — Acknowledge that:*

- The experiences of those who experience violence are framed by settler colonialism and historical trauma.
- The result of settler colonialist policies is violence against Indigenous women, girls and members of the 2SLGBTQQIA community.
- That the work of shelters and MAWS is to be actively anti-racist.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remains one of the most under-reported crimes in Canada.

It's on each of us to help reduce GBV in our communities.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, call the provincial Family Violence Crisis & Support Line:  
1-877-977-0007



## Meet The Team

### **Deena Brock – Provincial Coordinator**

204-430-4346 | deena@maws.mb.ca

### **Amrita Chavan – Communications Specialist**

amrita@maws.mb.ca

### **Dr. Amber Merucci – Project Specialist, WAGE Centering the Rights of Women from the Margins.**

amber@maws.mb.ca

### **Dr. Sally Ogoe – Project Specialist, WAGE Transforming Together Project**

sally@maws.mb.ca

### **Sue Mvingi – HIFIS Database Coordinator**

sue@maws.mb.ca

### **Anthony Leong – Shelter Support Foundations Training (SSFT) Coordinator**

anthony@maws.mb.ca

### **Kevin Kowal – Technical Support**

ktkowal@gmail.com

### **MAWS Board of Directors:**

- Ang Braun, Executive Director, Genesis House, Winkler (South Central Committee on Family Violence)
- Kim Fontaine, Executive Director, Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin, Winnipeg (*MAWS Co-Chair*)
- Kim Lavallee, Executive Director, Prairie Harbour Inc., Portage La Prairie (*MAWS Co-Chair*)
- Kari Prawdzyk, Executive Director, Parkland Crisis Centre, Dauphin
- Dawna Pritchard, Executive Director, Aurora House, The Pas (The Pas Committee for Women in Crisis)
- Heather Symbalisy, Executive Director, YWCA Westman Women's Shelter, Brandon (*MAWS Co-Chair*)
- Helen Trudeau, Executive Director, Thompson Crisis Centre, Thompson
- Viktoria Westgate, Executive Director, Nova House, Selkirk (*MAWS Secretary*)
- Tracy Whitby, Executive Director, Agape House, Steinbach (*MAWS Treasurer*)
- Marcie Wood, Executive Director, Willow Place, Winnipeg (*MAWS Co-Chair*)

## Our Member Shelters & Associate Members

- Agape House, Steinbach (Eastman Crisis Centre): 204-326-6062
- Aurora House, The Pas (The Pas Committee for Women in Crisis): 204-623-7427
- Genesis House, Winkler (South Central Committee on Family Violence): 204-325-9957
- Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin, Winnipeg: 204-987-2780
- Nova House, Selkirk: 204-482-7882
- Parkland Crisis Centre, Dauphin: 204-622-4626
- Prairie Harbour Inc., Portage La Prairie: 204-239-5234
- Thompson Crisis Centre, Thompson: 204-677-9668
- Willow Place, Winnipeg: 204-615-0313
- YWCA Westman Women's Shelter, Brandon: 204-727-3644

### Associate Members:

#### Second Stage Programs:

- Alpha House Project, Winnipeg: 204-982-2011
- Bravestone Centre, Winnipeg: 204-275-2600
- Chez Rachel, Winnipeg: 204-925-2550

#### FV Agencies:

- Circling Buffalo, The Pas: 204-623-3423
- Elmwood Community Resource Centre, Winnipeg: 204-982-1720
- Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, Winnipeg: 204-477-1123
- Interlake Women's Resource Centre, Gimli: 204-642-8264
- Survivor's Hope, Pinawa: 204-753-5353
- Swan Valley Crisis Centre, Swan River: 204-734-9368
- Women's Resource Centre, Flin Flon: 204-681-3105



## WHAT SERVICES DO MANITOBA WOMEN'S SHELTERS OFFER?

- Confidential and safe emergency location;
- Safety planning assistance;
- Meals, snacks & free hygiene supplies provided;
- 24-hour staff support;
- Free one-to-one and group counselling;
- Referral services;
- Children's support and counselling;
- Activities and cultural supports
- Advocacy, contact and assistance with community supports, including Legal Aid, E.I.A., etc. (as required);
- Early intervention and prevention services;
- Community awareness resources.



## Message From The Co-Chairs

In 2021, MAWS members, including the ten provincial Family Violence (FV) shelters, were under tremendous strain after the challenges of the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Shelters throughout the province were seeing unprecedented rates of staff turnover, which affected daily operations and client service delivery. MAWS' FV sector well-being surveys demonstrated rising levels of pandemic-related burnout, vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue among FV staff, Managers and Executive Directors (EDs). The pandemic had also fueled an escalation of mental health issues, adverse life circumstances and gender-based violence (GBV), which meant that there was an increasing need for shelter spaces and services to support clients presenting with complex needs.

The FV shelters came together under the MAWS umbrella to consult with their sister organizations across the province on the urgent need to balance the pressures of frontline work on staff with the equally important need to provide consistent client-centred care rooted in trauma-informed, intersectional, anti-racist and decolonial principles. We recognized that collective solutions were needed to address the historic lack of funding for operations and adequate staff training, which had contributed to the FV sector's past and current challenges in attracting and retaining qualified long-term applicants.

To support MAWS members, MAWS staff launched capacity-building, communications, advocacy, public education and outreach initiatives. The MAWS Board and staff consistently advocated for greater support for FV shelters, and these efforts showed positive results. In April 2022, after consultation with MAWS and FV shelters, the Government of Manitoba announced a new equitable funding model for shelters to address operational needs. MAWS participated in the Women's Shelters Canada-led consultations on a National Action Plan (NAP) to End Gender-Based Violence. We are currently part of Manitoba's Clare's Law Working Group and the federal Menstrual Equity Fund Initiative, and we continue to campaign for proactive, survivor-centered measures to combat GBV.

In 2021, MAWS launched the development of a new, advanced mental health and substance use dependence "Training for Professionals Working with Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence" (MHSU), with the support of the Government of Manitoba. The MAWS-led MHSU Working Group engaged subject matter experts Dr. Kendra Nixon of the University of Manitoba's Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) and Dr. Kathryn Levine of the UM Faculty of Social Work to create the course, which will be launched over the next several months.

In addition to the MHSU training program, MAWS is developing its own online courses, ten of which are already available to FV staff across the province. We aim to release nine more courses over the course of this year.

MAWS support for members also included significant internal and external communications initiatives, digital education campaigns, and media relations. Since November 2021, MAWS has sent out a monthly e-newsletter which has over 300 subscribers. Through social media campaigns, we have reached over 30,000 Manitobans and Canadians, and raised public awareness of the urgent need to address the "shadow pandemic"\* of GBV (UN Women). In March 2022, MAWS staff participated in the 66th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) and provided input into the role of the Canadian Prairies in lasting national solutions to end gender-based violence.



*Our new HIFIS Database Coordinator Sue Muvungi conducting a HIFIS Training at the Thompson Crisis Centre*

In recognition of FV shelters' difficulties with the implementation of the HIFIS database, MAWS has hired a new HIFIS Database Coordinator to work with End Homelessness Winnipeg and apply HIFIS in the FV shelters. Funding for this position was made possible through the financial support of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) and Women's Shelters Canada (WSC). We're pleased that the MAWS team has grown, and would like to thank the MAWS staff for their dedication in supporting the FV shelters and ultimately those seeking refuge from abuse.

Our experiences in 2021 and 2022 have demonstrated that advocacy, collaborative capacity building, and stakeholder relationship-building helped us to emerge more resilient and unified in these difficult times. MAWS' structure and place as a GBV prevention thought leader has grown, along with its scope and impact on communities throughout Manitoba.



We know all too well that global events like pandemics can set gender equality back by decades; now more than ever, it is important for us to continue advocating for each other and fighting for systems change together. To that end, as we move forward into a new year, we renew our commitment to frontline shelter work that is culturally inclusive, human rights-based and trauma-informed, and that centers the voices and needs of those affected by violence.

**- Kim Fontaine**

Executive Director, Ikwe Widdjiitiwin Inc., MAWS Co-Chair

**- Heather Symbolisty**

Executive Director, YWCA Brandon, MAWS Co-Chair

**- Marcie Wood**

Executive Director, Willow Place Inc., MAWS Co-Chair

## Provincial Coordinator's Report

MAWS has been extremely busy over the last several years. Numerous grants have helped us to grow from an association that had a part-time Provincial Coordinator to an organization with seven more staff members who are specialists in their areas of work. It's been a privilege to lead this expanded team of feminist-minded professionals as they deliver support to MAWS members, to the Manitoba Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sector, and ultimately to those affected by violence.

Our work with the provincial Family Violence (FV) shelters, as well as our participation on the Women's Shelters Canada (WSC) Advisory Council, has shown us that the Manitoba FV sector faces the same structural challenges as national and international GBV prevention sectors. We have intensified our efforts to address these challenges through capacity-building, communications, and advocacy initiatives.

Through two federally-funded projects, "Transforming Together" and "Centering the Rights of Women from The Margins," MAWS staff have connected with the provincial Family Violence shelters to identify possible gaps in their organization's service delivery, consult with them on viable solutions, develop policies and build key partnerships between FV and aligned sector stakeholders throughout the province. By March 2023, the MAWS staff will have completed "Transforming Together" and will share the project's outcomes with stakeholders.

MAWS has utilized grants from the Government of Manitoba, the Canadian Women's Foundation and Women's Shelters Canada to develop client-centred and trauma-informed training. Our online courses are being developed in consultation with Indigenous- and newcomer-led organizations, people with lived experience, and thought leaders in trauma-informed practice, harm reduction and GBV.

Ten MAWS online courses are already available to FV staff across the province. Please visit <http://maws.mb.ca/courses-available-now/> for a full list of our virtual training, including our "Transforming Together Board Governance Course" that may be of interest to FV shelter Board Members, as it provides a comprehensive overview of Board Members' roles and responsibilities.



We know that our training development for FV staff must also go hand-in-hand with increased public education on abuse prevention, and our communications and advocacy efforts have raised awareness of GBV and Manitoba-based support for survivors. We have forged significant connections with local and national media organizations, and have been interviewed extensively on various GBV-related issues in Manitoba.

To commemorate the first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in September 2021, we published a digital allyship toolkit that has been nationally recognized. We remain committed to learning from Indigenous-led organizations and leaders on how to dismantle the systemic racism and violence that Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA folks and communities face.



The support of national organizations like White Ribbon Canada and Women's Shelters Canada has helped us create powerful local digital campaigns on breaking the silence around GBV, its pervasiveness in our communities, and the urgent need for a collective response to combat this public health and human rights crisis.

The pandemic has had a devastating impact on those affected by violence. Earlier this year, Statistics Canada reported that the rate of police-reported sexual assault in Canada has reached its highest level since 1996\*. Sexualized

and gender-based violence are two of the few violent crimes whose rates continue to escalate; approximately every six days in Canada, a woman is killed by her intimate partner,\*\* and in the first six months of 2022 alone, 88 women and girls were killed by violence\*\*\*. Further, in navigating the challenges of the pandemic, FV staff have been experiencing rising levels of pandemic-related burnout and vicarious trauma – impacting shelter operations.

Today, FV clients present with increasingly complex and multi-sector needs, including mental health and substance use dependence, affordable housing, and food insecurity, to name a few. Robust partnerships between the FV and aligned sectors would ensure that community members in need receive the timely care and support they require to thrive. Additionally, investments in FV shelters' service delivery and operational infrastructure would answer the increasing need for shelter spaces and services for clients.

However, the historical and current system in which the FV and other social support organizations operate has been set up to constrain them, limit collaboration, generate a sense of competition for funding, and create siloes between the FV organizations and stakeholders. This model is deeply harmful to everyone in the FV system, including survivors of GBV, and FV staff and management. The larger environment of GBV prevention in Manitoba needs to change if we hope to truly honour and support those affected by family violence, and reverse the escalating rates of GBV in society.

From the work our members and FV agencies do, we know that gender-based violence and femicide can be reduced if we collectively strengthen the Manitoba anti-violence system by centering the rights and voices of survivors and victims of abuse, caring for anti-violence workers, and promoting consistent, intersectional and culturally inclusive services.

It is vital that Manitoba GBV service providers come together, and in a spirit of openness, learning and collaboration, form a collective impact backbone organization that is committed to addressing system gaps and advancing consistent trauma-informed, client-centred services throughout the province. That is how we can ensure that no Manitoban seeking refuge from violence goes unsupported in their unique needs, and that family violence prevention work is given the value and recognition it deserves.

**- Deena Brock**  
Provincial Coordinator, MAWS

\* CBC: <https://bit.ly/3B4XpgZ>

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<https://canadianwomen.org/the-facts/gender-based-violence/>

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Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability 2022 Mid-Year report: <https://www.femicideinCanada.ca/home/allreports>

## The Year In Review

Here's what we've been doing over 2021-2022:

- **New Staff:** We welcomed two new staff members to the MAWS Team: Sue Muvingi, our *HIFIS Database Coordinator*, and Anthony Leong, our *Shelter Support Foundations Training (SSFT) Coordinator!*
- **Support & Capacity-Building:**
  - Professionals working for Garden Hill First Nation and the Town of Neepawa have consulted MAWS staff on the operational and infrastructure requirements for possible new Family Violence (FV) shelters in their communities, on the work of Manitoba provincial FV shelters, and FV shelter statistics.
  - MAWS staff are currently engaged in creating a “knowledge exchange” or online library of resources for FV professionals and organizations.
  - We continue to provide ongoing advocacy, policy development, capacity-building and communications support to all our members and associate members.
- **Stakeholder Outreach & Community Development:**
  - MAWS staff have met with stakeholders from the FV and aligned sectors to discuss system gaps and solutions. Inclusion Winnipeg, The Manitoba Islamic Association, Institute for International Women's Rights Manitoba, Clan Mothers Healing Village, and Rural Development Network (Shelter Pulse) are among the many organizations we have met with this year.
  - We have worked with Jubilee Fund on their program to support women through housing with a rent guarantee program.
  - MAWS staff have participated in the Coordinated Access meetings for Winnipeg.
  - We continue to be involved in the Manitoba Coalition of Community Action Program for Children.
  - MAWS staff are currently part of the Women's Shelters Canada Second Stage Shelters Committee.
  - We have met with representatives from the office of the Hon. Marcie Ien, federal Minister of Women and Gender Equality Canada, regarding Manitoba FV shelter concerns and needs.
- **Research:**
  - MAWS Staff have participated quarterly in research sessions with the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children (CREVAWC), Western University – Recognizing Critical Expertise in Gender-Based Violence Work.
  - We participated in the “COVID-19 and the Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence Survivors and Service Providers” with Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) at University of Manitoba.
  - MAWS staff are engaging with the research team for “Supporting the Health and Well-Being of Survivors of Family Violence in Family Law Proceedings,” and we are also part of the Manitoba Community of Practice (CoP) at RESOLVE UM, and the National CoP.

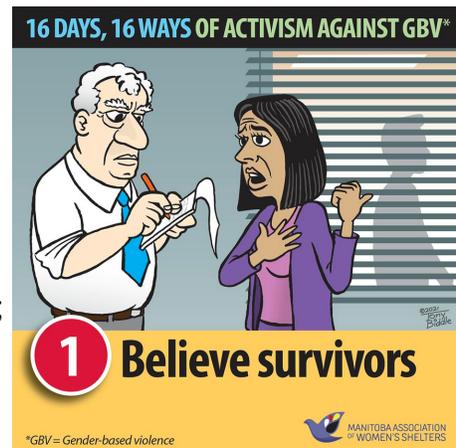


- **Training:**

- We have added ten new online courses to our website; these are already available to Family Violence (FV) staff across the province. The courses include: Domestic Violence Safety Assessment Tool (DVSAT); Documentation Quick Study Course; Transforming Together Board Governance Course; Islamophobia; Supporting Muslim Women in Intimate Partner and Family Violence Shelters; Cultural Humility; Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care; Emotional Intelligence and Counselling Strategies; Stress Training and Indigenous Perspectives. For a full list of available courses on the MAWS website, click here: <https://maws.mb.ca/courses-available-now/>
- We aim to release nine more courses this year.
- “Training for Professionals Working with Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence” (MHSU): We are currently working with the subject matter experts Dr. Kendra Nixon of the University of Manitoba’s Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) and Dr. Kathryn Levine of the UM Faculty of Social Work on the development of this new, advanced mental health and substance use dependence training program for FV professionals. We thank the Government of Manitoba for their support of this initiative.

- **Communications:**

- **Public education and Social Media:** Consistent social media posting has helped us grow our digital audience to over 700 Facebook followers! We have a new Instagram page with over 500 followers and our Twitter content is frequently shared by national and international organizations.
- **Digital awareness campaigns:** MAWS staff created news releases and promotional content for the following digital initiatives:
  1. The multilingual “You Are Not Alone” campaign in November 2021, which raised awareness of community supports for newcomer and immigrant women experiencing abuse;
  2. “16Days-16Ways Against GBV,” that was recognized by the global 16 Days of Activism Against GBV organization;
  3. “Centering the Rights of Women from the Margins” Webinar on Human Rights Day 2021;
  4. Black History Month awareness for 2021 & 2022;
  5. International Women’s Day 2021 & 2022;
  6. “Sexual Assault Awareness Month”;
  7. “Cyber Violence: What You Need To Know”;
  8. National Indigenous History Month 2021 & 2022;
  9. Pride Month 2021 & 2022;
  10. “Digital Allyship Toolkit” to commemorate the first National Day for Truth & Reconciliation in Sep 2021;
  11. “Day After Day” Campaign, in partnership with White Ribbon Canada;
  12. “More Than” Campaign, in partnership with Women’s Shelters Canada.



- **Webinars:** MAWS staff hosted webinars to mark our key projects, learn from gender justice thought leaders, and commemorate important occasions.

Our webinars included:

- “Centering The Rights of Women From The Margins” on Dec 10, 2021, Human Rights Day;
- “International Women’s Day 2022”;
- "Indigenous Women's Rights Consistent With The MMIWG Approach” with Professor Brenda Gunn (UM Law).

- **Newsletter:** An ongoing initiative to reach out to our members and stakeholders, the MAWS newsletter will be a year old this November! Follow this link to subscribe: <https://maws.mb.ca/newsletter/>

- **Media relations & Monitoring:**

MAWS staff have participated in over ten interviews with local and national media organizations on GBV-related issues in Manitoba. Our new weekly media monitoring reports keep our members informed about the latest developments in the GBV prevention sector, in Manitoba and around the world.



- **Advocacy:** Our staff represented MAWS & the Manitoba Family Violence (FV) sector at provincial and national policy consultations, including at the Women’s Shelters Canada Consultations on Training & Communications, the Government of Manitoba Clare’s Law Working Group, the Federal Menstrual Equity Fund Initiative, and the Alliance Against Violence & Adversity (AVA) Triadic Mentorship & Internship Working Group. We have also launched a new monthly initiative: The MAWS Advocacy Report, to keep our members updated about our advocacy work.

#BreakTheBias: Imagine A Gender-Equal World

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

THIS IWD, JOIN US TO CELEBRATE MANITOBAN WOMEN WHO ARE #BREAKINGTHEBIAS

**International Women's Day Webinar**

Tuesday, March 8, 2022  
3:00pm - 4:00pm CST  
Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81238103964>

OUR TRAILBLAZING SPEAKERS THIS IWD:

Elder Mae Louise Campbell  
Co-founder of Clan Mother's Healing Village

Tasneem Valli  
First Vice-Chair of the Manitoba Islamic Association

Leah Wilson  
Institute for International Women's Rights - Manitoba

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT MAWS AT: [amber@maws.mb.ca](mailto:amber@maws.mb.ca)

@MAWSManitoba @maws.mb @mawsmanitoba

*Our #IWD2022 Webinar featured community leaders from the Clan Mothers Healing Village, the Manitoba Islamic Association & The Institute for International Women's Rights - MB!*

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
SUPPORT STARTS HERE. [sheltersafe.ca](https://sheltersafe.ca)



## Transforming Together Federal Grant-based Project Updates: 2021/2022

In 2019, MAWS launched its “Transforming Together” (TT) project, funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE). TT is a four year (June 2019–May 2023) Gender-Based Violence (GBV) systems change project. The project’s activities are focused on the following initiatives:

- Addressing the service delivery challenges experienced by MAWS members, including the ten provincially funded Family Violence (FV) shelters in Manitoba, and supporting shelter capacity-building initiatives. We have also helped MAWS members increase their capacity to deliver culturally appropriate services.
- Building key partnerships between FV shelters and stakeholders, including other GBV agencies, community organizations from aligned social support sectors, civil society organizations, policy makers at all levels of government, and thought leaders in gender equality, trauma-informed practice, and harm reduction. We have built and will continue to build relationships with Indigenous-led service providers and community leaders and with health care and medical service providers in Winnipeg.
- Analyzing FV and aligned sector policies to build a collection of proposed best practices in FV shelter work.
- Participating in systems mapping and conducting interviews with stakeholders to identify potential gaps in service delivery. MAWS staff have developed a final report reflecting the outcomes of this initiative.
- Hosting consultations with survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) and family violence (FV) through our “Survivor Advisory Group” (SAG) to center survivors’ voices in GBV systems change solutions.
- Organizing best practices discussions for FV counselors through our “Counsellor Study Group” (CSG) sessions.
- Building an online knowledge exchange platform of GBV-related educational and policy resources.
- Creating surveys for policy analysis. Our well-being surveys for GBV sector professionals (Shelter Executive Directors and staff) have provided insights into the impact of GBV prevention work, vicarious trauma and pandemic-related burnout.
- Developing multilingual welcome posters for newcomer clients at FV shelters.

In the coming months, our policy development will focus on accessibility, inclusiveness, and knowledge mobilization, which we will share with our stakeholders and Manitoba community members.

## “Centering The Rights of Women From The Margins” Federal Grant-based Project Updates: 2021/2022

In December 2021, MAWS launched its “Centering The Rights of Women From The Margins” project, supported by the federal Gender-Based Violence (GBV) grant from Women and Gender Equality Canada. Over the past several months, we have expanded the scope and impact of the work being done under this grant!

Some of our initiatives include:

- Creating partnerships with community organizations and stakeholders; hosting and co-hosting webinars for International Human Rights Day and for International Women's Day.
- Gathering insights from our Survivor Advisory Group to develop an informed, client-centered report with recommendations on proactively reducing gaps in service.
- Developing self-paced online courses, as well as live virtual training and discussion sessions for counsellors working with women experiencing intimate partner violence and/or family violence.

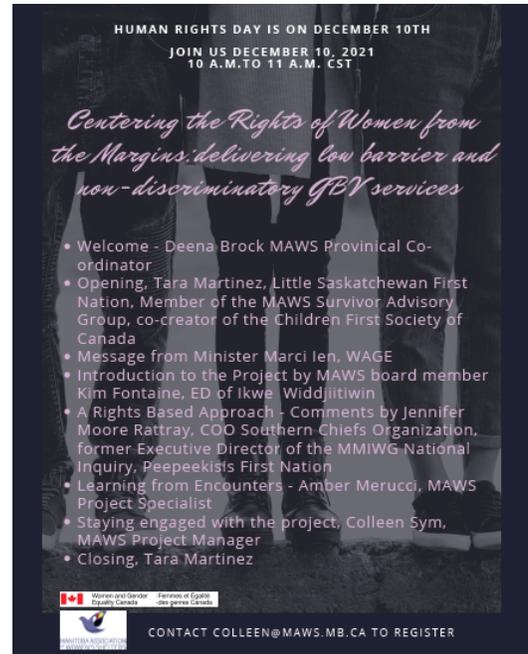
Stay tuned for our upcoming film festival in November 2022 to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women!

## HIFIS Report: 2021/2022

In recognition of Family Violence (FV) shelters' difficulties with the HIFIS database, MAWS has hired a new HIFIS Database Coordinator, Sue Muvingi.

Sue will be building relationships with MAWS members and working with End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW) on the HIFIS implementation process. She will be collaborating with EHW to assist shelters in getting connected to HIFIS through the onsite Structured Cable Network (SCN) black boxes, and is updating the HIFIS Manual to better match shelter processes. She will conduct site visits to FV shelters to understand each shelter's operations and how best to train their staff, as well as to get HIFIS up and running.

Over the next year, Sue will be training shelter staff in person, as well as ensuring that all necessary courses/certifications pertaining to accessing, using and storing personal client information are completed. She will also confirm that privacy and consent documents are signed and on file.



# Gender-Based Violence In Manitoba & Canada

Gender-based violence (GBV) is an urgent public health and human rights issue in Canada.



Gender-Based & Sexualized Violence are two of the few crimes that have increased in Canada over the past few decades.

Manitoba has some of the highest rates of GBV in the country.

- Approximately every **six days**, a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner.
- Between January 1 and June 30 this year, **88** women & girls were killed by violence. **9** of these femicide cases were in Manitoba.
- **173** women & girls were killed by violence in Canada in 2021.
- In 2020, **160** women and girls were killed by violence. This is a concerning increase from **118** women & girls killed by violence in 2019.
- Indigenous women & girls are **12 times** more likely to be murdered or missing than any other women in Canada.

*\*Sources: Statistics Canada; Canadian Women's Foundation; The Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice & Accountability (CFOJA)*

## Manitoba Family Violence (FV) Shelters Statistics (2021-2022):

- Over 18,000 crisis calls answered
- Over 2,500 clients (residential & non-residential) have been provided with support, including shelter from violence.
- Over 40,000 bednights
- Over 10,000 counselling sessions for clients

# Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) Report

MAWS has been able to support Family Violence (FV) shelters with their much-needed and historically underfunded children's programs through the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC). We thank the Public Health Agency of Canada for their generous support of this program.



Throughout the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, FV shelters remained open and continued to provide services to parents and children. Many shelters had reduced non-residential services (groups and one-on-one) to minimize the spread of COVID-19 between residential and non-residential families. FV staff focused on building healthier outcomes for the residential families. While the numbers of families accessing shelter services this past year may have decreased, we estimate that this was due to the effects of pandemic lockdowns. Overall, the CAPC project was able to assist 545 families across Manitoba.

*{CAPC supports families with children between the ages of 0 to 6 years old.}*



## Our provincial CAPC statistics:

- 545 CAPC families accessed service;
- 58 CAPC male parents accessed service;
- 657 CAPC age children accessed service;
- 120 individual counselling sessions were conducted with 63 children;
- 83 support groups for children were held with 75 children participating;
- 559 playgroups were held with 1216 participants.

## Parenting Life Skills:

- 126 parenting support groups were held with 311 parents participating;
- 498 counselling sessions were held with 108 parents.



## Treasurer's AGM Report - April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

Thanks to multiple grants this year, MAWS' ability to support member shelters and associate members has grown. We have been able to hire additional contract positions that have been instrumental in our capacity-building initiatives with FV shelters and agencies.

Donation dollars continue to grow, exceeding last year's high number, with MAWS securing \$113,467 in 2022 as compared to \$77,483 in 2021. We are grateful to the many donors who have recognized our increased need during the pandemic and the recovery from its operational consequences – we thank you for your support.

At our year end, we recorded \$240,179 of deferred contributions. These amounts represent externally restricted and received funds, designated for programming that has not yet occurred. The deferral method allows us to better match our incomes with the associated expenses. This results in a better representation of the fiscal picture of the organization.

This year has seen MAWS continue to expand its services to all members through trainings, public awareness and advocacy. 2021-22 has been a successful year, and I would like to thank the members of MAWS for their support and commitment.

Regards,

**Tracy Whitby**

Executive Director, Eastman Crisis Centre Inc.  
Treasurer, Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters

### THE MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS INC.

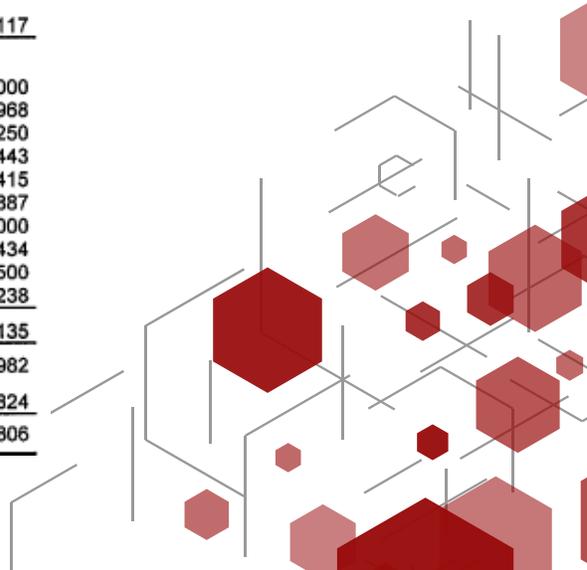
#### Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Community Action Program for Children (Schedule 1)	\$ 222,947	\$ 222,947
Women and Gender Equality - TT (Schedule 2)	165,229	162,182
Women and Gender Equality - GBV (Schedule 3)	50,455	-
Donations	113,467	77,483
Grants	71,952	105,021
Administration charge to WAGE	25,000	25,000
Memberships	8,000	8,000
Interest income	2,830	1,484
	<b>659,880</b>	<b>602,117</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Administration	25,000	25,000
Insurance	5,829	1,968
Memberships and subscriptions	1,250	250
Office expenses	16,740	19,443
Professional fees	46,121	35,415
Salaries and wages	233,478	190,887
Shelter supplies grants	12,600	9,000
Shelter operating grants	178,434	188,434
Shelter training grants	27,787	4,500
Travel and training	1,132	1,238
	<b>548,371</b>	<b>476,135</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>111,509</b>	<b>125,982</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - Beginning</b>	<b>134,806</b>	<b>8,824</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - Ending</b>	<b>\$ 246,315</b>	<b>\$ 134,806</b>

*MAWS Financial Statements  
provided by Independent  
Auditor:*

*Gislason Targownik Peters,  
Chartered Professional  
Accountants,  
675 Norquay Drive, Winkler  
MB R6W 0L1  
Ph.: (204)325-7579*



## Thank You To Our Generous Donors & Supporters!

We'd like to thank our supporters, donors, funders and all individuals - those named below & those who wished to remain anonymous - who have been thinking of the Manitoba shelters.

Through your generosity, MAWS is able to continue our support work for Family Violence (FV) shelters and agencies in Manitoba.

### **Our donors & funders for 2021-2022 fiscal year:**

Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada  
 Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)  
 Women's Shelters Canada (WSC)  
 Canadian Women's Foundation (CWF)  
 Department of Families Manitoba  
 Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS)  
 White Ribbon Canada

Canada Employment and Immigration Union (CEIU) Manitoba/Saskatchewan Regional Committee  
 Cargill  
 New Media Manitoba Inc.  
 Beta Sigma Phi Xi Gamma Chapter  
 Alpha Delta Kappa Beta Sorority  
 AGF Atlas Graham Furgale Ltd.  
 Kinsmen Club  
 Prairie Toyota Dealers  
 Investors Group - Staff donations  
 Jewish Foundation of Manitoba - members' donations  
 Canadian Institute of Mining Metallurgy  
 All Charities Campaign - staff donations  
 Manitoba Women's Institute  
 Simon Fraser University

The many people who donated through:  
 All Charity's Campaign | The Benevity Community Impact Fund | CanadaHelps |  
 United Way | Donate-A-Car | Associated Auto Auction | GiftFunds Canada |  
 PayPal Giving Fund

We would also like to thank all those donors who supported us but wished to stay anonymous.



Visit <https://maws.mb.ca/> for more information on MAWS and our various initiatives, and to sign up for our monthly newsletter!

Connect with us on social media!



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