

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.

NEWSLETTER



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Empowering women to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and society

Honourary Patroness - Her Honour Ms Lenore Berscheid

President's Message

By Maxine Balbon

Dear Friends,

A panorama of color describes my favourite time of year, the season of fall. Hope that you had time to take a walk and admire the beauty of the season. The Provincial Council has been active this fall with the highlights mentioned in this report.

The PCWM is looking forward to our semi-annual meeting on Saturday, November 17, on the topic "Early Learning and Child Care in Manitoba: Challenges and Services" to be held at Wolseley Family Place, 691 Wolseley Ave., with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A full slate of professionals from the field and government officials as speakers and panel guests have been invited for some lively and meaningful discussion. To further add to the agenda, Karen Dempsey, the new president of NCWC, will address the participants over the noon luncheon. There will also be an attic sale as well as the Celebrating Women art boutique items will be available for sale. A poster with further details is included with this newsletter. We would like everyone to mark your calendars and come out to hear the issues and enjoy the day.

As the completion of the Babs Friesen Archival Project and Oral History Project draws to a close in early spring, watch for an announcement for a celebration. Her Honor Lenore Berscheid has graciously invited us to celebrate our accomplishment to highlight the stories of women making significant contributions to their community at Government House. May 6th is a tentative date close to Manitoba Day, a fitting date of commemoration.

Congratulations to Muriel Smith on being presented with the Persons Case Award on October 18th by the Governor General of Canada in Ottawa, for being the first woman named as Deputy Premier of the province of Manitoba, and for her work to develop the first pay equity legislation in Canada, helped establish a network of women's shelters, and a zero tolerance domestic violence policy in the judicial system.

The general meeting in September on the impact of Immigration was most interesting and well attended. Those who attended were intrigued by the stories portrayed by the panel on the benefits and challenges of immigration for both

the recipients and newcomers. A good return on the sale of CW boutique items was also realized that evening.

Thanks to the energy, enthusiasm, and hard work of Elizabeth Fleming, the Provincial Council co-sponsored three very successful events in October. In Right to Know week on October 2nd was a panel discussion at Portage Place with lively debate on accessing information in Manitoba as compared to other provinces. October 4th John Reid, former Information Commissioner of Canada gave a brilliant presentation on the increasing importance of access to information,

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to a good crowd at the University of Winnipeg. Both events were stimulated by good questions from the audience. Mr. Reid was presented with a framed picture as part of the Provincial Council's donation.

On October 17th the Biofuels problems and solutions were thrashed out in a controversial and stimulating panel discussion moderated by Reg Sherren. The evening was educational for ourselves and the public with all views openly debated and supplemented by pertinent questions from a large audience. Costs to PCWM were minimal at \$58.00 for this event.

On September 24th 11 members of PCWM including Pat Wege (MCCA), Jennifer Hagedorn (MAWS), Lisa Murdock (PWHCE), and Rita Lynn Emerson (MORN) and CWW presented the PCWM Brief to 15 members of the NDP Caucus. There were many items in the brief plus three additions on Mental Health, Poverty and Minimum Wage, and Midwifery. Subsequent to the presentation, Daryl Reid, MLA for Transcona, encouraged Carolyn Garlich to speak to the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation regarding Pay-As-You-Drive Car Insurance; Honourable Nancy Allan, Minister responsible for the Status of Women, phoned Rita Emerson (MORN) to thank her for her presentation; Honourable Christine Melnick, Minister of Water Stewardship, indicated that she would welcome an invitation to speak to members regarding environmental issues, in particular Lake Winnipeg. Thanks very much to Mary Scott for all her work in developing the Brief and to the Board and members who supported and participated in the process this year. The brief is posted on the website <http://www.mts.net/~pcwm/>

Also on September 24, Mary Scott, Muriel Smith, Rita Emerson and myself attended a Round Table hosted by Anita Neville. The meeting was officiated by Maria Minna, Official Opposition to the Status of Women Canada. The purpose of the round table discussion was to strategize and discuss ways of combating the perceived jeopardy of women's rights in Canada by the Federal government.

The profits realized from the Celebrating Women 1st Annual Gala were \$3,484.69, thanks to the efforts and support of members and the community. The CW boutique suitcase items are continuing to be sold at PCWM events throughout these fall months. 20% of sales are credited to PCWM, the remainder goes to support NCWC and their efforts to reduce inventory.

Herstory 2008 Calendars are available again this year at the same price of \$15.00 each and may be ordered by calling PCWM at 992-2751, or emailing pcwm@mts.net. They will also be on sale at the semi-annual meeting November 17.

A big thank you goes to Bev Goodwin and June Menzies who made a submission to the Mental Health Commission of Canada Stakeholder Consultation Session on October 17, at Cabot Centre. In it they stressed public education, greater research and adequate funding to ensure the implementation of ratified policies and procedures. They further recommended that the PCWM Ad-hoc committee on Mental Health have an on-going dialogue with the Commission.

Mary Scott and I attended the Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba's Symposium on Empowering Immigrant /Refugee Women – Challenges and Opportunities for Immigrant & Refugee Women: Economic Security, Family Well-being, and Spiritual Healing at Crossways in Common. Interesting points were made with regard to the challenges facing women arriving in a foreign country and we thank IWAM for hosting this enlightening event.

Karen Dempsey, President of NCWC, will be in Winnipeg November 15th to take part in the Semi-Annual meeting. The PCWM Board will be hosting a reception for Karen at Aikins House on Friday evening November 16th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to attend is most welcome.

Karen Dempsey recently sent out a press release in support of the NCWC's affiliate the National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL), which has been forced to close their staffed office. On September 28, Karen was invited to attend a meeting in Halifax sponsored by the YWCA, the Dalhousie Women's Centre, and CRIAW to discuss the impact of the federal funding cuts and change in mandate of Status Womer Canada. On Oct. 3, Karen attended a luncheon in Halifax to meet the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, Michael Ignatief, and talked to him re the changes to SWC.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to join the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters for their AGM on October 10. I was able to meet several of the directors from Women's shelters throughout Manitoba, and to see first hand the good work that this organization does for women in crisis.

On October 22, 2007, Elizabeth Fleming addressed Bill 21 on behalf of PCWM to the Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development, Manitoba Legislative Assembly. Elizabeth did an excellent job of calling the government to task for and urging them to be more open, forthright and accountable about its land development enterprises. See page 4 for a summary of Elizabeth's presentation.

Elizabeth and I also attended the CWW information luncheon October 17 with Jasper McKee, Professor Emeritus Department of Physics at U of Manitoba and a well-known author, speaking on the renaissance of atomic energy. His revelations on the advantages of nuclear energy were both surprising and informative.

Mark your new calendars for our January 17th general meeting which promises to be enlightening and helpful in planning your emergency response. Elaine Enarson of Brandon will be speaking on "Women, gender and disasters – What's the connection?" It will be held in Balmoral Hall Common Room at 7:00 p.m., and I encourage everyone to come out.

The time has come for PCWM to do some visioning and determine our goals and objectives for the next few years. To this end the board will be meeting in early December for a strategic planning session.

Maxine Balbon
President

Message from your Editor

By Karen Sharma, Editor

Greetings members and friends of the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc. My special thanks goes to those who have contributed articles, ideas and vision to this edition of our newsletter.

The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.'s newsletter is one of ways our organization hopes to create connections and pathways for communication within Manitoba's women's movement. And with so much activity being undertaken by Manitoba's advocates for social change, these pathways and connections are critical to the vibrancy and cohesiveness of our movement. PCWM wants to ensure that our newsletter reflects the needs of our community. If you have ideas or comments, please do not hesitate to forward them to me.

I am pleased to announce that this edition of our newsletter reflects a new direction for our newsletter. To enhance the effectiveness of our newsletter, our Board has decided to focus each edition on a particular pressing issue or concern for our membership and community. In addition to feature articles, we will continue to bring you news from our Board and committees; upcoming events; and new policies and directives that have significant bearing on our community,

This edition examines some ideas and issues concerning child care and early learning in Manitoba. With the advent of corporate, for-profit childcare delivery models in Canada and major changes to federal, provincial and territorial agreements; it is becoming increasingly important that Canadians engage in critical dialogue on our provincial and national values and beliefs around child care and early learning. With excellent contributions from the Manitoba Child Care Association, the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, Manitoba Child Care Coalition and Laura Rance, Editor of the Manitoba Co-operator, we hope that this edition of our newsletter promotes dialogue and critical thinking around these important issues.

Our commitment to examining issues around child care and early years learning is also reflected in our upcoming Semi-Annual Meeting on November 17, 2007. At this meeting, we will have an array of speakers and panel participants share their knowledge and ideas of child care and early years learning and programming in our province. For more information on this event, please see Page 12 of this Newsletter. Capacity is limited so be sure to register early!

To submit articles, comments, ideas and questions, please contact your Newsletter Editor, Karen Sharma, at sharma_karen@hotmail.com

Muriel Smith receives the Governor Generals Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case – A Well Deserved Honour!



What a special day on Wednesday, October 17th, when Muriel Smith, was one of six Canadians (including a Youth) presented with this very special medal by the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada

These awards salute the contribution of Canadian women to the advancement of women's equality and celebrate Canada's evolution as an inclusive society. The awards were instituted by the Government of Canada in 1979 to honour the 50th anniversary of the Persons Case and the five Albertan women whose determination led to a landmark victory in the struggle of Canadian women for equality.

Muriel is an inspired teacher and mentor. Councils of Women have been enriched by her leadership. A tireless worker, she continues as the Chair of the Joint Council of Women of Winnipeg, and Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba Resolutions Committee. She sits on the Boards of both Councils. She was elected to the Manitoba Legislature in 1981 and went on to become the first woman in Canada to be named Deputy Premier. She also served in a number of Cabinet posts, including Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. She ushered in the first pay equity legislation in Canada, helped establish a network of women's shelters and a zero-tolerance domestic violence policy in the judicial system, developed a model childcare program, a comprehensive system of community supports for differently abled people, and dramatically increased women's representation in government. As current Vice-President of the National Council of Women of Canada and Legislation Director of the Canadian Federation of University Women, she remains active and steadfast in her vision.

Congratulations From All of Us, Muriel!

National Council of Women of Canada

By Mary Scott
Vice President, NCWC

For those interested in knowing what NCWC is up to, check out the web site at www.ncwc.ca. There are several recent letters, and press releases including: a letter to the Prime Minister urging development of a National Water Strategy; Women in Cabinet; No-Fly List; Genetic Modification of Trees; withdrawal of funding of NAWL (National Association of Women and the Law); Security and Prosperity Partnership; and Polygamy. An excellent report on the Common Program "Water" has been prepared by Gracia Janes, and is also posted on the web site. The Policy Section has been updated, and includes all NCWC approved Resolutions up to and including 2007.

So, it is worth taking a look at the web site, and you can even see a picture of our President, Karen Dempsey in the Photo Album. Karen, by the way will be joining us at the semi annual meeting on November 17th, so do come and meet her, and share your thoughts and ideas about Council.

From PCWM's newest Federate Member, Literacy Partners of Manitoba

Literacy Partners of Manitoba is a coalition representing literacy organizations and others interested in literacy throughout the province. There are over 290,000 Manitobans who have literacy challenges and that does not include persons living on reserves.

Lori Apps, Executive Director of Literacy Partners, invites everyone to their Peter Gzowski Golf Tournament at the Elmhurst Golf & Country Club on June 9, 2008.. Check out their website for more about the Literacy Partners of Manitoba at www.mb.literacy.ca

PCWM Congratulates City Councillor Jenny Gerbasi

Congratulations to Jenny Gerbasi, City Councillor, who has been appointed Chair of the Mayor's Environmental Advisory Council. We'll be looking forward to hearing more about the work of this committee.

Bill 21 - Housing and Renewal Corporation Amendment Act

By Elizabeth Fleming, Chair
Urban/Rural Issues Committee

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba President, Maxine Balbon, and representative, Elizabeth Fleming, appeared October 22, 2007 before the Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly to speak to **Bill 21–The Housing and Renewal Corporation Amendment Act (Fund for Housing Revitalization)**.

The purpose of the Bill is to take "profits" from suburban developments such as Waverley West and put them in a fund to be used for inner city housing. PCWM is – and always has been - supportive of inner city housing. However, on closer examination of the Hansard records and after meetings with Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (MHRC) and other government officials and in consultation with the Council of Women of Winnipeg, a decision was made to speak against the Bill.

Council has worked long and hard to prevent urban sprawl in and around Manitoba's urban centres. We see the environmental and economic costs of sprawl. For years, Winnipeggers have observed urban sprawl steadily drained resources away from the inner city – both the downtown and existing neighbourhoods. Sprawl, such as Waverley West, also removes high class agricultural land from production, displaces wildlife and increases dependency on the automobile at a time when we should be reducing, not increasing, greenhouse gases from transportation.

Our research showed that although MHRC is a crown corporation, its board is made up entirely of senior public servants who take their direction from the Minister. The legislation already enables funds to be set up for housing revitalization. MHRC funds are already channeled towards inner city housing.

We concluded that Bill 21 was not only redundant but it was misleading to the public and therefore should not proceed. In addition, we recommended that government improve the transparency and accountability of the finances for government land developments such as Waverley West and answer the opposition parties' questions in the House.

For a full transcript of the PCWM presentation and the debate that followed in committee, please see:
http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/hansard/1st-39th/sed_02/sed_02.html

Child Care in Manitoba – A Background

**By Pat Wege, Executive Director
Manitoba Child Care Association**

There is one licensed child care space for every 4 children under age 12 with a mother in the paid labour force.

The Provincial Context¹

Children under age 12 in Manitoba: **179,400**

Children 0-12 years with mothers in the paid labour force: **118,100**
(2003 rounded estimate)

Licensed Child Care Spaces in Manitoba, 2006- 2007¹

Total child care spaces located in licensed centers: **22,477**

Total child care spaces located in licensed homes: **3,898**

Total licensed child care spaces in Manitoba: **26,375**

Variance between mothers in the labour force and number of licensed child care spaces: **91,725 spaces!**

Finding Quality Care is a Pressure Cooker for Most Parents

Each child care program maintains its own wait list so we don't know how many families are waiting for a space in a licensed child care centre or family child care home. In a press release issued March 3, 2006, the Child Care Coalition of Manitoba announced there were 14,758 names on Winnipeg child care centre wait lists, but rural centres and family child care homes also have wait lists. Wise parents put their child's name on wait lists at many different programs and far in advance of a start date, so wait lists alone are not an accurate indicator of need.

Some programs, especially those in neighbourhoods with new housing and young families, report their wait list is many years long. Some have closed their wait list entirely and aren't accepting any new names. On the other hand, there may not be a wait list at all in neighbourhoods where primarily older families reside or in small towns. But available spaces may not be accessible if it requires a long commute or if the parent relies on public transportation.

Fortunate parents may have family or community members willing and able to babysit. Parents may work opposite shifts, or may recruit a retired, but still energetic grandmother or grandfather, an unemployed aunt or uncle or neighbour. These informal arrangements can work well, as long as there is a match of child rearing philosophies and as long as the babysitter remains healthy, available, willing, and doesn't charge more than the parent can afford. Parents without child care cannot enter or return to the workforce, or participate in education or job training. Clearly, we need many more licensed child care spaces, but there are problems that must be addressed in order to maintain our current services and before services can expand:

- there is a critical shortage of qualified Early Childhood Educators and Child Care Assistants preventing some existing programs from meeting service standards, from enrolling to maximum capacity, and new programs from opening new spaces. Child care funding is not high enough to support market competitive wages and benefits that will recruit and retain skilled employees to meet the needs of existing services.
- there is no coordinated or planned strategy to build a child care system in Manitoba. Before a new child care centre opens, there must be community volunteers with energy, knowledge, time, and dedication willing to do several years worth of work to find suitable surplus space, to fundraise the many thousands of dollars to renovate or build and equip it to meet provincial standards. Then there is usually a wait list for provincial start up funds, operating grant funds, and also the added challenge in hiring suitable employees, especially in rural and northern areas of Manitoba.

How does the Government of Canada contribute to licensed child care in Manitoba?

The New Government of Canada, elected in 2006, terminated the funding agreement on Early Learning and Child Care with the Government of Manitoba. Instead of \$123M in federal funds to stabilize, enhance, and expand child care services, Manitoba will get around \$9M.

How does the Government of Manitoba contribute to licensed child care?

The Province of Manitoba, Department of Family Services & Housing develops legislation, regulations, policies, standards, monitors compliance, provides start up and operating grants to eligible facilities, oversees the subsidy program for low income families, supports inclusion of children with special needs, and classifies all child care assistants and early childhood educators who work in licensed child care centres. (www.manitoba.ca/childcare) On April 11, 2007 Family Services & Housing Minister Gord Mackintosh announced funding for 500 more spaces, \$2.8M more for expansion and construction of facilities and providing lower cost child care, in addition to \$14 million to backfill withdrawn federal funds.

Although funding for child care in Manitoba has more than doubled since 1999, demand for the service far surpasses supply and a serious and significant multi-year development strategy is required to ensure high quality, affordable, accessible and developmental early learning and child care services for all who need it.

The Provincial Council of Women's resolution on child care calls on the Government of Manitoba to support the goals of a fully accessible, non-profit system of comprehensive, flexible and high quality child care, worthy wages, and good working conditions, funded jointly by government and parents.

Rural Revival – Childcare in Rural Manitoba

By Laura Rance

If someone proposed building a factory in a rural community that returned \$1.58 for every dollar invested, generated millions of dollars in direct and indirect economic spinoffs for the region, created 76 full and part-time jobs and an additional 28 spinoff jobs while attracting new people to the local workforce and population base — local economic development officials would buy them lunch and say “tell us more.”

They’d be happy to hear how demand for this product vastly outstrips the supply and that it is “green” development. Chances are, they’d be thinking value-added food processing, biofuels — ethanol perhaps, or manufacturing — as they pondered how their community might beat out all other contenders to land such a venture. And they’d start to grow increasingly uncomfortable and suspicious when they were told this economic development opportunity exists for every community in the province — at least those that still have children.

Newly released research is showing that child care availability is not only an economic development in its own right, it creates the opportunity and an incentive for other business.

And the Child Care Coalition of Manitoba wants to nail that notion into the platforms of the political parties vying for people’s votes in the ongoing provincial election. Ever-conscious that it’s the money that does the talking in most major public policy debates, the coalition set out to prove what many communities already instinctively know — child care is an investment that pays compounding dividends.

“This is about stopping seeing child care merely as an expenditure and starting to see it producing important returns,” says Susan Prentice, a University of Manitoba sociology professor who recently authored a series of reports on the availability and economics of rural child care. “It shows the child care sector is competitive with other economic development initiatives,” she told the Manitoba Co-operator recently.

Her research found that 12 licensed or child care nurseries providing services for just under 400 households in the Parkland region north of Riding Mountain National Park were worth \$1.73 million to the economy of six rural municipalities and five towns and villages.

As that money rippled through the economy, it produced \$2.74 million in additional direct and indirect benefits. It employed 76 people full- and part-time in addition to creating an additional 28 jobs. Meanwhile, parents using the child care services generated \$12.4 million in income. The findings were similar in Thompson and St. Pierre Jolys.

By comparison, the Husky Energy ethanol plant at Minnedosa is expected to create between five and 10 new

positions.

This effort to measure the tangible benefits of child care services cannot be viewed in isolation from the critical role the service plays in keeping kids safe while their parents work. Most would never dream of juggling the demands of their employment with child care. But in farming, it has always been expected.

Contrary to the rural mythology, farmyards have never been a safe place for small children. The difference in the past however, was that there were more eyes and ears around to keep an eye on the young ones — either by older siblings or extended family such as grandparents. Kids were taught at an early age to respect the dangers, but they were also closely watched.

Nowadays there are fewer people, less time and industrial-scale machinery. Operators may not even see the child wandering into a danger zone in time. Access to adequate child care is a constant juggling act.

Non-farmers in rural communities struggle too. The demand for this service far outweighs the supply. Of the 26,000 licensed child care spaces available province-wide, only 9,000 are located outside of Winnipeg.

The Parkland, for example, has only 362 spaces — some available part-time only — to serve 2,665 little people living in the region. That’s an access ratio of 14 per cent.

There are many — including a few municipal officials in this province — who would say raising children is parents’ responsibility. The reality is that most families need at least two income streams. Statistics in the Parkland region show four out of five mothers are in the labour force. Fifty-three per cent of mothers with children under three were working outside the home in 2006.

What they are doing with the kids is anyone’s guess; there are 99 names on the waiting list for 19 available spaces in the area.

But for whatever reason, the message isn’t getting through, despite the critical and deepening labour shortage in this province. We’ve heard lots about the downward spiral affecting rural communities.

This is an upward one. Communities that have child care are better able to attract the employees they need to fill vacancies. That makes it a better place to live and if more people live there, there is a better opportunity to attract more business.

In short, a community that looks after its kids is a community that’s open for business.

PCWM acknowledges Laura Rance, Manitoba Co-operator and the Winnipeg Free Press for allowing us to re-print this article.

Let's Close the Gaps! Building a System of Early Learning and Child Care in Manitoba

**By Donna Riddell, Manitoba Representative
and Lynell Anderson, Project Director
Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada**

While the federal government's child care funding cuts have thrown cold water on provincial plans to build early learning and child care systems, parents still want and need access to quality, affordable early learning and care opportunities for their children. That's why the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada has a simple message for provincial governments – with or without federal funds, build the system!

In fact, the Province of Manitoba has been a child care leader in Canada and already has the building blocks in place for an effective child care system. Now, we need to 'close the gaps' in quality and universality.

An overwhelming body of evidence highlights quality child care as a social and economic imperative. Child care promotes healthy child development, reduces child poverty, advances women's equality, deepens social inclusion and advances a knowledge-based economy and, therefore, ongoing economic prosperity.

This year, the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC) celebrates 25 years of advocacy for quality, universal child care. We envision a Canada where families are supported by community-based, quality child care services that are publicly funded like schools and libraries. We believe that child care programs should be a natural and expected part of our neighbourhoods: available, accessible and affordable to all who choose to use them.

Our work towards achieving this vision is supported by a membership that reaches more than four million Canadians, including parents, caregivers, researchers and students as well as women's, anti-poverty, labour, social justice, disability and rural organizations.

Moreover, support for child care in Canada extends far beyond our membership. Poll after poll shows that the majority of Canadians support increased public funding for quality child care services.

The CCAAC's *Child Care Policy: Making the Connections* project has developed strategies and tools, such as the **Child Care System Implementation Tool**, to support communities and governments as they work together to build their child care systems. The Implementation Tool shows how a focused public investment strategy moves us towards the outcomes of quality and universality, based on evidence and the needs identified in our communities.

The Implementation Tool begins by identifying the **key indicators** required to track progress towards quality and universality. Key indicators include caregiver compensation and training, parent fees, percentage of spaces for children with disabilities and number of spaces overall. **Targets** for each key indicator are then established, after which the Implementation Tool is used to calculate the **public funding gaps** for each of these indicators.

A focused public investment strategy, along with coordinated public policy, ensures that incremental public funding is invested directly in child care services that are accountable for using these funds to **close the gaps** for quality and universality and, over time, achieve the established targets for each of the key system indicators (for further information on this tool and the Making the Connections project, please visit www.childcareadvocacy.ca).

Quality, universal child care provides a minimum 2:1 return to Manitoba's already strong economy, so we can afford to close the public funding gaps for quality and universality. The province has operated in a surplus position for over 10 years, and it has had the lowest or the second lowest unemployment rate in Canada in the last 5 years. As the Conference Board of Canada has recently noted "Manitoba's economic performance is expected to remain strong." However, labour market pressures are likely to intensify, which requires a proactive strategy both to continue to strengthen the recruitment and retention plans for existing child care workers and to expand services to support more families to maintain and expand their labour force attachment.

Furthermore, while federal transfers for early learning and child care services have been cut from their 2006/07 levels, communities and governments have worked hard to retain federal leadership on and contributions to system-building. The following table shows federal transfers to Manitoba for early childhood development, including child care services, since 2003/04 (see <http://www.fin.gc.ca/FEDPROV/fsce.html> for details):

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Let's Close the Gaps! Building a System of Early Learning and Child Care in Manitoba, Continued from Page 7

\$ millions	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
2000 ECD Agreement	18.3	18.3	18.2	18.1	18.0
2003 Multilateral Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care	0.9	5.5	8.2	10.8	12.6
2005 Bilateral Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care	0	0	25.6	23.7	0
Budget 2007 Child Care Space Development Support	0	0	0	0	9.0
Total	19.2	23.8	52.0	52.6	39.6

Let's close the gaps for quality, universal early learning and child care in Manitoba. A comprehensive child care system is doable, affordable and beneficial for our children, our families, our communities and our economy.

This article has been adapted from an article published in the Manitoba Child Care Association's Bridges magazine, Summer 2007.

PCWM acknowledges the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada for providing us with this article.

Time For Action - An Economic and Social Analysis of Childcare in Winnipeg

By the Child Care Coalition of Manitoba

This report has been prepared by the Child Care Coalition of Manitoba, and is intended to stimulate a 'made-in-Winnipeg' discussion of childcare, and spark some homegrown solutions. The project was led by a broad Advisory Council of leading Winnipeggers and involved over a dozen community consultations in ten neighbourhoods, in addition to original and secondary data analysis. It provides detailed quantitative and qualitative evidence of the economic and social impact of childcare in our Winnipeg community, as well as information on what other Canadian cities are doing on the issue.

The childcare sector has a significant economic and social impact in Winnipeg. It enables parents to work, and reduces poverty. Childcare, just like a transportation system, is a part of the urban infrastructure that enables people to get to work. Employers need childcare, since their bottom line is hurt when they can't recruit and retain staff. Children benefit in demonstrable ways from early childhood care. Good quality childcare, research shows, is good for children, good for mothers, good for their families, and good for society. Investments in early childhood development yield high public as well as private returns. Economists have estimated returns between two to seven times the original investment. Childcare is both an economic industry in its own right, as well as providing a service than enables the rest of the economy to thrive.

Winnipeg's childcare sector is comprised of 252 licensed childcare centres, 74 part-day nurseries, and 295 licensed family homes. Together, these 621 facilities provide 16,749

licensed spaces for children aged 0–12 years. There is a childcare space for about 17 percent of the City's children. As an industry, childcare is worth \$101 million/year to the City of Winnipeg. The field employs over 3,230 people who earn an average \$80 million/year. Every \$1 invested in childcare returns \$1.38 to the Winnipeg economy—even before child benefits are factored in. Childcare also is a job creator: for every 1 childcare job, 2.15 other jobs are created or sustained. Childcare affects over 12,700 households, allowing mothers and fathers to work or study, and to earn an estimated \$715 million /year.

Childcare services are not distributed evenly across Winnipeg. The distribution tends to advantage higher-income neighbourhoods with greater social capital and disadvantage inner-city and poorer neighbourhoods. Services for infants and school-age children are in particularly short supply. There is a pressing need for culturally and linguistically appropriate services for Aboriginal, Francophone and other minority communities. The high cost of childcare, the need for extended hours care, and the importance of high quality and neighbourhood-based childcare are equally important themes. Overall, the distribution of childcare services is inadequate and inequitable, creating real barriers for Winnipeg children and their parents.

Childcare services are regulated by the provincial government, but are not centrally planned or coordinated. Neither the City, the private sector, nor the voluntary sector

Time for Action: An Economic and Social Analysis of Child Care in Winnipeg, Continued on Page 9

Time for Action: An Economic and Social Analysis of Child Care in Winnipeg, Continued from Page 8

have seriously addressed the importance of childcare in their economic and community planning processes.

We propose that political leadership and concerted cross-sectoral involvement is badly needed, and we argue it is time for action.

We call upon the Premier of Manitoba and the Mayor of Winnipeg to establish a Childcare Task Force to be led by a Chair or co-Chairs with extensive experience in Winnipeg's public, private or voluntary sector. The mandate of the Task Force shall be:

1. To invite members from a range of Winnipeg communities, including representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors, labour, the Aboriginal community, the Francophone community, women's organizations and immigrant groups, as well as other key stakeholders, to join the Task Force;
2. To document the current and potential economic and social effects of childcare in Winnipeg, including an analysis of cost, availability, accessibility, and quality, as well as inclusion and cultural sensitivity;
3. To propose a "Childcare Agenda for Winnipeg" which includes appropriate ways to integrate childcare into cross-sectoral policy and planning for economic and community development and social infrastructure;
4. To release its final report within twelve months of being established.

We call upon the Winnipeg Foundation to support the Task Force, by ensuring that it has the resources and expertise required to complete its mandate, including the capacity to commission research and undertake community dialogue.

Government of Canada Announces New Call for Proposals for Women's Projects

The Honourable Josée Verner, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages, today announced a second call for proposals to solicit funding from the Women's Community Fund of Status of Women Canada. The deadline for submissions to the Women's Community Fund is December 17, 2007.

The new call invites eligible organizations to access funding from the overall \$15.3 million Women's Program budget of Status of Women Canada. Applications and Funding Guidelines for the Women's Community Fund are available on the SWC website (<http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca>).

Free Information Session on Mayor's Report

The Poverty Advisory Committee of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg is hosting a free information session on the topic: Mayor's Economic Opportunity Commission: what the community needs to know and what it means for Winnipeg.

Featuring Greg Madzuk, CUPE National Representative

Tuesday, November 13th, 2007

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

95 Ellen St. (IRCOM)

For more information please contact 943-2561 or info@spcw.mb.ca

Apprenticeship Futures Commission to Hold Public Hearings

A series of consultations with the public and stakeholder groups provide an opportunity for the Commission to shape recommendations and present valuable feedback required to enhance and grow the apprenticeship and related training systems. The Provincial Council has policy urging the government to provide more supportive training opportunities for women in the trades, and will be preparing a Brief to present. Interested groups and individuals may submit a written brief before the end of November, or appear before the Commission at the following hearings: Please call **Carmen Neufeld**, Planners Plus Inc., at **(204) 257-5205 or 1-866-532-6155** for further information.

Date	Location	Venue
6:00 to 9:00 pm Thursday, November 8	Winnipeg	Sun Centre (formerly Blue and Gold Room) at the Canadian Inns Stadium
6:00 to 9:00 pm Tuesday, November 13	Thompson	The Hub Restaurant (111 Churchill Drive)
6:00 to 9:00 pm Tuesday, November 20	Brandon	Keystone Centre (1 – 1175 – 18th Street) – Pioneer Lounge; Upper Level – East side entrance through main doors
6:00 to 9:00 pm Tuesday, November 27	Winnipeg	Victoria Inn and Conference Centre (1808 Wellington Avenue) – Embassy A & B

Update – Winnipeg Inner City Missions

By Jean Campbell

In the January 2007 PCWM Newsletter, I had an article on Endiang (Ojibwa for Place of Hope) a housing project of WICM (Winnipeg Inner City Missions) of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, funded by all levels of government, the PCC and individuals. The building on Logan Avenue was officially opened on September 12 with a large gathering representative of the community and all donor levels. All 20 suites are occupied. A picture of one of them, with full coverage of the event, appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press on September 13. In the picture was Rev. Margaret Mullin, Executive Director and recipient of this year's YWCA/YMCA Woman of Distinction Award.

Participating in the opening was an Anishinabe Women's Drum Group. One of their projects is sewing star blankets which they give away. When they heard that the late Harry Lehotsky has pancreatic cancer, they decided to make him a star blanket. They delivered it to the Ellice Street Café, which was started by Harry and New Life Ministries, enclosing a note telling "the meaning of the various colours and how the blanket would hug him as if it were a hug from the community." Last December, when drumming at an Aids Memorial Ceremony at Nine Circles Community Health Centre, they were stunned to learn from one of the doctors that the moment Harry received the blanket it became known as 'Harry's Blanket'. He took it everywhere with him and was covered with it when he died. Every star blanket has a story. This is just one of them.

WICM has two parts – Anishinabe, referred to above, and Flora House, a centre for children on Flora Avenue, begun in the early 60s by two Presbyterian deaconesses. For the past 4 years, RBC (Royal Bank of Canada) has been providing some funding for after-school programming and have also provided Bank staff volunteers. They are so impressed by the work of the centre that on September 27, Bank management came to Flora House and presented a cheque for \$5,000.00.

Call for Donations – PCWM Attic Sale!

As part of the November 17, 2007 Semi-Annual Meeting, PCWM will be holding an Attic Sale. If you have new or gently used items (no clothing please!) consider donating them to PCWM. To arrange for pick-up, please call our office at 992-2751.

Coming in January.....

"Women, gender and disasters-what's the connection?"

January 17th, 2008

Balmoral Hall School, 630 Westminster
7:00 pm (Speaker at 7:30)

Speaker: Elaine Enarson

Dr. Enarson, from the University of Brandon, earned her doctorate in sociology from the University of Oregon and is the author of *Woods-Working Women: Sexual Integration in the U.S. Forest Service* (1984). While in Nevada, she served as director of the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence and coordinated the first women's studies program at the University of Nevada Reno. Dr. Enarson is now an international consultant on gender and disaster who has worked primarily as an independent scholar in the US, Australia and Canada. She explores the economic impacts of disasters on women, women's disaster housing and economic recovery, violence against women in disasters, and women's political mobilization and cultural interpretation of disasters.

Currently, she is a professor in the Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies Department of Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba and engaged in the development of new disaster resilience networks at the provincial level. Her current research involves the "creeping" disaster of BSE or "mad cow" disease in the lives of farming families in the Canadian prairies.

Always a lot of fun – Upcoming University Women's Club Event

Join us at historic Ralph Connor House, 54 West Gate for the 27th Annual Craft and Bake Sale. Features 3 floors of boutiques with a host of 21 Manitoba Artisans and many of the University Women's Club's own fine craters and cooks.

Friday, November 23rd: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
Saturday, November 24th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Friday and Saturday 11:00 – 1:00 Lunch

Friday and Saturday 1:30 to 3:00 Coffee, tea and dainties available in the dining room.

Coming Events

November 4, 2007

Security & Prosperity Partnership - How it Impacts on Canadian Sovereignty

Union Centre
275 Broadway at Smith Street
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Guest speaker: Peter Julian, M.P. & NDP International Trade Critic

November 12, 2007

CCPA's 10th Anniversary "Knowledge.Change.Social Justice"

Pantages Playhouse Theatre
180 Market Ave
6:00 p.m. Wine and Cheese (Tickets are \$100 with a \$75 tax receipt)

7:00 p.m. Keynote Address (To attend only the Keynote Address, tickets are \$25)

Keynote Address: Stephen Lewis

Tickets available by contacting the CCPA at 927-3200 or email ccpamb@policyalternatives.ca. Tickets are also available at any branch of Assiniboine Credit Union

November 13, 2007

Information Session on the Report from the Mayor's Economic Opportunity Commission

Poverty Advisory Committee of the Social Planning Council
95 Ellen Street (IRCOM Building)
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Presented by Greg Madzuk, CUPE National Representative

For more information, please contact 943-2561 or info@spcw.mb.ca

November 17, 2007

Semi-Annual Meeting Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care in Manitoba - Challenges and Services

Wolseley Family Place
691 Wolseley Avenue
9:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$15.00

Call 992-2751 or e-mail pcwm@mts.net to register.

November 23rd and 24th, 2007

University Women's Club 27th Annual Craft and Bake Sale.

Ralph Connor House – 54 West Gate

Friday, November 23rd: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 24th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Friday and Saturday 11:00 – 1:00 Lunch

Friday and Saturday 1:30 to 3:00 Coffee, tea and dainties available in the dining room.

Features 3 floors of boutiques with a host of 21 Manitoba Artisans and many of the University Women's Club's own fine craters and cooks.

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba CALENDAR FOR 2007-2008

- November 8th, Board Meeting.
- November 17th, Semi Annual (A Saturday, Program and Meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) Wolseley Family Place
- January 10th, Board Meeting. **Newsletter Deadline**
- January 17th, General Meeting.
- February 7th, Board Meeting
- February 22nd, Round Table (A Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)
- March 6th, Board Meeting
- March 20th, General Meeting (Resolutions)
- April 3rd, Board Meeting **Newsletter Deadline**
- May 10th or 17th – Annual Meeting. This is a Saturday and will be out of town.

Please note all General Meetings are held in the Common Room of Balmoral Hall School, unless otherwise posted. All Board meetings are held in Aikins House, Balmoral Hall School, unless otherwise posted.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect or represent the views of the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, its members or federates.

Editor
Karen Sharma

Deadline for submission for next issue: January 10, 2007
Submissions may be e-mailed to the editor at sharma_karen@hotmail.com

Photocopying this newsletter has been made possible through the courtesy of the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council

Empowering women to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and society

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.
630 Westminster Avenue Winnipeg MB R3C 3S1
Phone: (204) 992-2751 Fax: (204) 783-3882 or E-mail: pcwm@mts.net

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND ITS SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING ON

Early Learning and Child Care in Manitoba

CHALLENGES AND SERVICES



November 17, 2007

9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Wolseley Family Place

691 Wolseley Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

**Fully Accessible Location*

Registration Fee: \$15.00

Includes Lunch and Snack

Celebrating Women Boutique & Attic Sale

To register, see detachable form below

Keynote Speakers:

Kathy Reid, Director of the Manitoba Child Care Program
Janet Jamieson, ECE Instructor, Red River College

Panel Discussion:

Pat Wege, Executive Director, Manitoba Child Care Association - Moderator
Dr. Susan Prentice, Associate Professor, Sociology, University of Manitoba
Debra Mayer, M.A., Project Manager, Specialink, the National Centre for Child Care Inclusion, University of Winnipeg
Gail Watson, Coordinator, Women, Poverty & Health Project, Women's Health Clinic
Christine Alongi, Chairperson, Board of St. Germaine Day Care Centre
Emcee: Lesley Hughes, CBC Commentator

Registration Form

Please note: **Registration for this event ends on November 12, 2007**

Name: _____ Organization/Federate: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Do you have any dietary requirements? _____

Registration Fee: \$15.00 Please send cheque or money order with registration form, payable to:

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.
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